■ News / A9

3 new Binibining Pilipinas winners are crowned

■ Metro / A24

Blast hits Arroyo building in Makati

■ World / A13

US Congress intervenes to keep Florida woman alive

■ Lifestyle / D2

Visible mysteries in a dim corner

■ Business / B6

Gov't plans to borrow against OFW remittances

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Monday, March 21, 2005 ★★ 76 pages 8 sections Vol. 20 No. 103 P18

website: www.inq7.net

PSE directors elect first nonbroker chair

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez
Business

FOR THE first time in the history of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), a nonbroker was unanimously elected its chair, a sign that the exchange, which had been criticized as an old boys' club, may be warming

PSE DIRECTORS/ A8

Ex-world boxing champ knocked out in GenSan

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—On the eve of Manny Pacquiao's match with Mexican fighter Erik Morales in Las Vegas, another boxer from this city

EX-WORLD/ A7

HINDI TUMAGAL NG ROUND 1..

Head cut dooms RP idol

Bloodied Pacquiao concedes defeat to Mexico's Morales

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—Erik Morales won with a classy display of guts and skill. Manny Pacquiao poured it all on, got bloodied and lost on points by unanimous decision.

But the big winners were the promoters who yesterday looked forward to a rematch between the two prizefight lions later this year.

All three judges gave the fight to Morales with an identical two-point edge (115-113). The Mexican fighter was the underdog but redeemed himself in a furious match that had the crowd yelling for more. *(More stories in Sports, Page A25.)*

But the fight looked close only because of the blood and fury.

Morales showed up at his best and ended up the clear winner as he put up another masterpiece in toughness and ring craft.

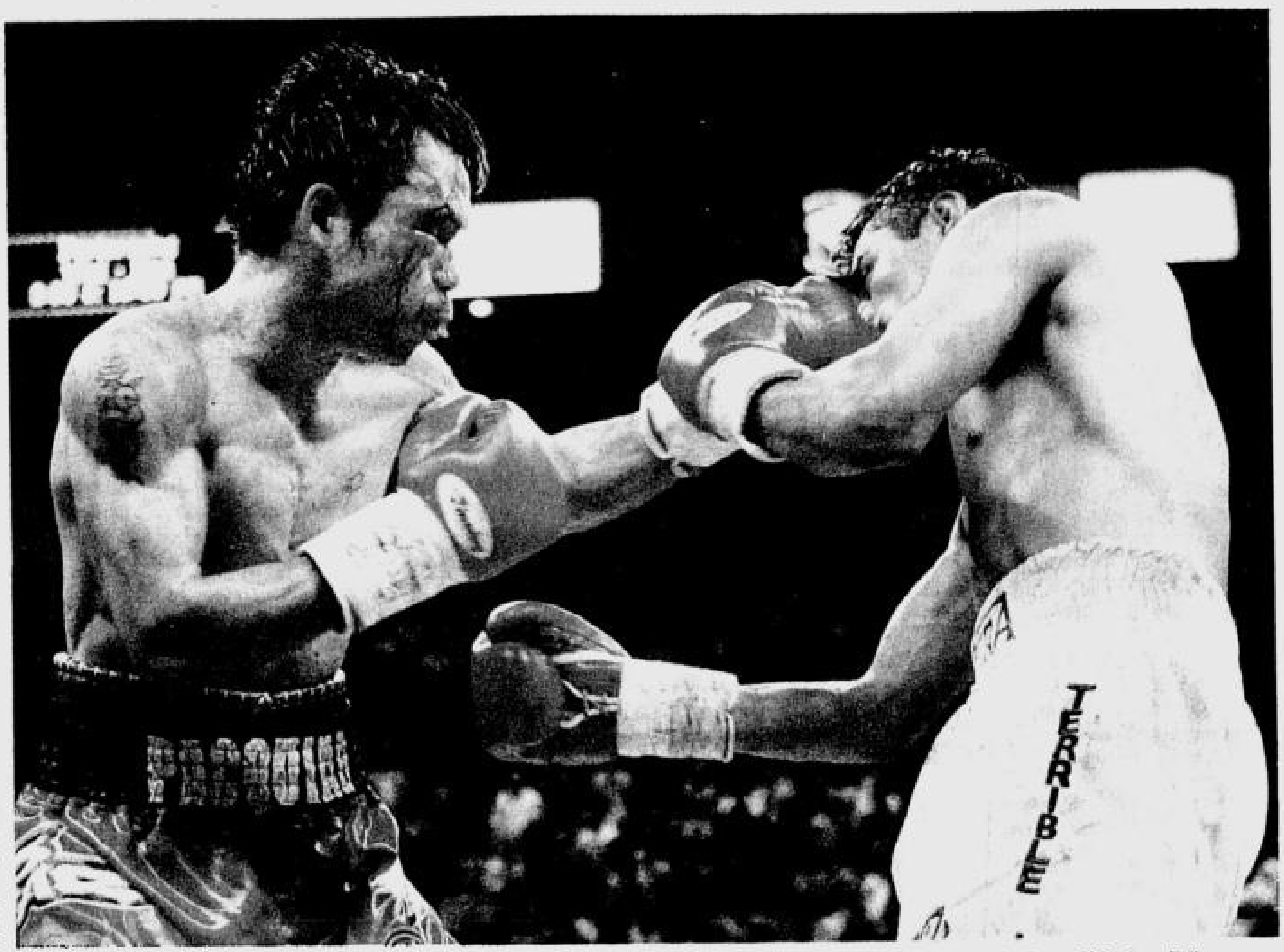
The heavily favored Pacquiao, deemed to be younger, faster, stronger, did not jump-start but ruled the mid-ring where he tagged Morales with hefty blows to take the opening round.

Pacquiao provided the most suspenseful moments when he caught Morales with big lefts that had shocked and frozen other fighters of lesser stuff in the past.

But in a fight expected not to last the 12-round distance, Morales settled down, cut Pacquiao over the right eye, and took the fiercest blows, while firing off his own, to take control with poise and accuracy.

Morales, with enough points to win, could've opted to coast along, but he decided to take the risk and went head-to-head in the final round to show he could take

HEAD/ A4



FIGHTING SPIRIT. Bloodied after an accidental headbutt, Filipino boxing hero Manny Pacquiao lands a left to the face of Mexican Erik Morales in their super featherweight bout at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Morales won by unanimous decision after 12 rounds.

AP

GMA, rebs, street folk unite to cheer, grieve

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, armed insurgents and common street folk found unity yesterday as they cheered for boxing hero Manny Pacquiao, then collectively grieved over his defeat to Mexico's Erik Morales.

The sellout crowd that saw the fight at the MGM Grand hotel in Las Vegas included Ms Arroyo's husband Mike and dozens of Filipino lawmakers.

Pacquiao earned praise despite his loss.

Many Filipinos believed he would bounce back with the same ferocity that had earned him a string of boxing victories and turned him into an icon in his divided and poor country.

"I praise Manny Pacquiao's courage, ability and fighting spirit," Ms Arroyo said. "I am sure he will bounce back from his loss."

"We cheer Manny as an outstanding Filipino. He sets an example of the toughness we need to surmount our trials and in fighting our way to become a strong Philippines," she said.

In their hinterland strongholds,

GMA/ A4

Slain cop a hero in hometown

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Fe Zamora
in Manila

SANTA MARIA, Ilocos Sur—He seemed so full of life, so unlike his usual quiet self, when he came home on New Year's Eve for a visit that his father now wonders if his son, PO3 Abel Areola, might have had a foreboding of his death.

He looked very happy and full of energy then—a bit odd, his family thought, since they knew him to be a quiet person.

"It could have been a premonition [of his death]," said the father, Abelardo, looking shocked when his son came home *in a coffin* on Wednesday.

Areola was the lone fatality among members of the police Special Action Force which stormed the Camp Bagong Diwa jailhouse on Tuesday, killing 22 alleged Abu Sayyaf bandits and ending a tense prison standoff.

The 25-year-old cop posthumously received a hero's medal, but questions have cropped up about how he died.

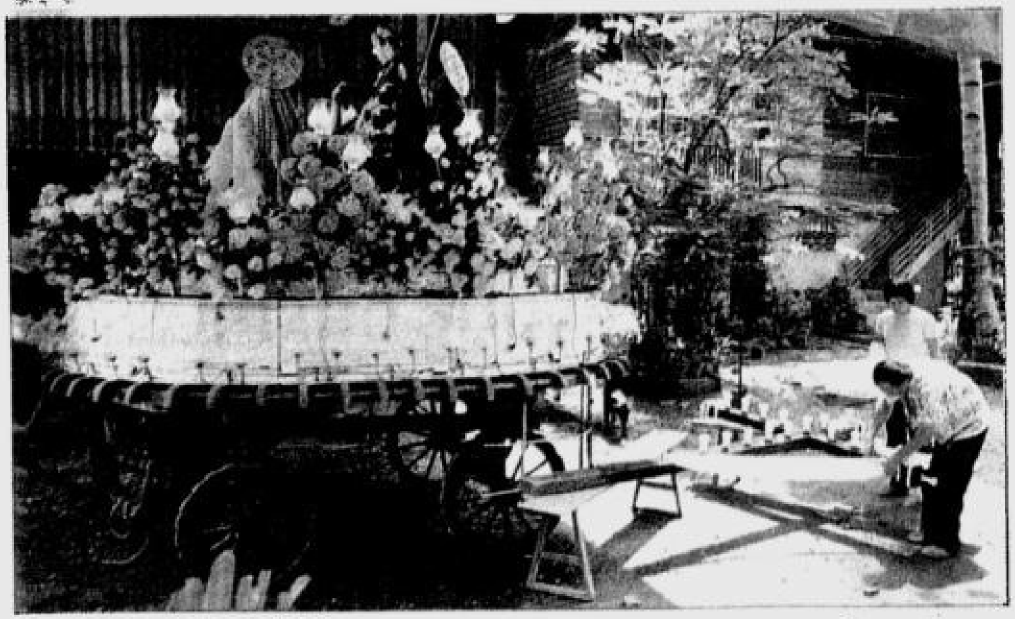
Was he killed in a shootout, or was he a victim of "friendly fire"?

Regardless of how his son died, the elder Areola, 66, was proud of what his son had done.

"He did what he should have done as a policeman. Not only our town, Santa Maria, but the whole country, could be proud of [his heroism]," the father said.

The mother, Leticia, 65, said

SLAIN/ A8



READY FOR PROCESSION

NOLI YAMSUAN

Preparing the "carrozas" for the Holy Week processions is a ritual all by itself in Baliwag, Bulacan. The "santos" kept in sturdy wooden boxes all year are brought out and cleaned; the vestments are examined for needed repairs. The carriages are assembled and those with silver decorations are shined to full luster.

The healing touch of Fr. Momoy

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BONGA, Albay—He has the healing touch.

Every Friday, for five years now, hundreds of sick people from all over the country and even from abroad visit the Trinitas Home for Contemplation, Retreat and Healing Center at the foot of Mount Mayon, hoping to be healed by Fr. Efren Borromeo.

Except on Good Friday, Father Momoy, as he is popularly known, sees patients from all walks of life at the center established by the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity (SOLT).

Some of them suffer from common ailments, such as asthma or arthritis. Some come from the United States, Europe and Asia. Some are terminally ill patients who arrive in stretchers, wearing oxygen masks or attached to IV fluids.

They all come to see the healing priest, hoping to be cured. More often than not, they are not disappointed.

According to Father Momoy, some of them had already seen him in Bonga but came back to personally thank him and, in many cases, to bring new patients.

THE HEALING/ A22

Bush stokes anti-US feelings anew

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

WHATEVER gains US President George W. Bush made during his five-day visit to Europe late last month to cement the ruptured transatlantic alliance split by the US-led war on Iraq cracked like plaster last week when Bush announced two maladroit diplomatic decisions that ruffled once again anti-American feelings across the Atlantic.

The first was the announcement that Bush had nominated Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz as the new chief of the World Bank to replace the Australian-born James Wolfensohn, who retires in May.

The nomination created dismay among the Europeans, since it followed within a week the announcement that Bush had nomi-

BUSH/ A7

'Field of Faith' offers solitude, rosary garden

By Cathy S. Babao Guballa
Contributor

MOONYEEN Retizos Singson's life was happy, privileged and uneventful, or so she thought. Together with husband Gabby, who had retired after a long stint as Central Bank governor, she looked forward to traveling around the world and a quieter life.

The summer of 2003 seemed perfect. Together with family friends, the Singsons traversed Tuscany and cruised the Mediterranean.

One morning, Moonyeen woke up and found blood in her stool. The first time did not alarm her. The second time, she was worried. The third time, fear gripped her. Moonyeen bargained with God and promised that she would go see a doctor as soon as she reached Manila so long as the bleeding would stop. It did.

Back home and again caught up in a whirlwind of ac-

FIELD/ A22

A MEDITATION spot in the "Field of Faith" garden.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/03/21/05

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Colonel's wife blocks Abu's confirmation

By Michael Lim Ubac

A COLONEL'S wife is standing in the way of Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu's confirmation.

In a complaint lodged with the Commission on Appointments (CA), Haydie Lagnada, the spouse of Lt. Col. Hilario Lagnada, accused Abu of complicity in the procurement of medical supplies for the Philippine Army Hospital.

Lagnada asked the CA chaired by Sen. Franklin Drilon not to confirm Abu's appointment because of his alleged questionable "moral standing to lead the AFP."

Lagnada called the attention of the CA members to the "propensity of General Abu to use the powers and privileges of his position to favor his relative to the prejudice and damage of other persons."

In her complaint, Lagnada said she brokered the delivery of hospital equipment worth P10.7 million to the Army hospital in behalf of Gazzaz/Felfran Enterprises owned by one Nelia Ayson in 2003.

After the delivery of the equipment, Lagnada said she was authorized by Ayson on Dec. 3, 2003, to demand payment of the P2.7 million balance of the deal.

But Abu, after conducting an inquiry into the deal, ordered the nonpayment of the remaining balance on two grounds — it was an overpriced deal and Lagnada had no authority to collect the balance.

Not authorized

Abu was relying on a complaint filed by Ayson herself that Lagnada was not authorized to collect the P2.7 million balance.

Abu then ordered the issuance of another set of checks in the same amount to Ayson, which were subsequently honored by the bank.

"The result of the investigation revealed that some military personalities were involved in the facilitation for the irregular release of the commercial checks. The legal claimants of the checks are the Gazzas and Felfran Enterprises," said Abu in a letter to the commanding general of the Army on Nov. 20, 2004.

But Lagnada argued that the complaint was allegedly instigated by Jep Lescano, owner of LandMark Distributors Inc. which had supplied the equipment to her.

Close relative

"I later found out (Lescano) was a close relative of the chief of staff," said Lagnada, who claimed that Abu's decision "was hastily made to my prejudice and damage, as my share to which I'm legally entitled from the said amount was never given to me."

"He should, therefore, not be allowed to continue in his position any longer and his confirmation should be denied," said Lagnada.

When contacted by the INQUIRER, Abu's office said he would issue a statement on the issue today.

It was also learned that Colonel Lagnada had himself been accused of conflict of interest on several occasions because of his wife's interference in the military's procurement deals while he was detailed with the military's logistics command.

Saudi oil minister here for talks

By Nikko Dizon

THE MINISTER of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia is currently in Manila for bilateral talks with President Macapagal-Arroyo and other top government officials, particularly on energy resources, trade and investments.

Minister Ali Ibrahim Bin Al-Naimi and his delegation will call on the President today in Malacañang as part of his three-day visit that aims to expand relations between the oil-rich country and the Philippines, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said in a statement.

The visit is "a valuable opportunity for timely discussions, especially on cooperation in energy resources," Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said in the statement.

The minister's delegation is composed of Dr. Ibrahim Al-Mohanna and Dr. Ahmed Al-Ghamdi, both advisors to the Minister, and Ali H. Twairqi, the ministry's director general.

The DFA described the visit as "significant in terms of energy cooperation."

"The President is expected to express the Philippines' desire to expand bilateral relations with the Kingdom (of Saudi Arabia), specifically in the petrochemical and oil industries.

For his part, Al-Naimi is expected to inform the President of current developments in the international oil market," the DFA said.

Al-Naimi and his delegation will also meet with outgoing Energy Secretary Vincent Perez and incoming Secretary Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla, other senior officials from the energy sector and officials of Petron Corp.

The Saudi minister's visit comes at a time when the country is reeling from successive increases in the prices of petroleum products, which oil companies blame on rising crude oil prices in the world market.

"His word on matters concerning energy and oil is well respected by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec)," the DFA said of Al-Naimi, who has been at the helm of the Kingdom's most important ministry since 1995.

Al-Naimi also chairs Saudi Aramco, which has a 40-percent stake in Petron.

Aside from exploring energy cooperation, Romulo said the Saudi minister's official visit is also an opportunity for the Philippine government to discuss other potential areas of economic cooperation with Saudi Arabia.

The Philippines is expected to pursue these discussions during the 2nd RP-KSA Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) scheduled on July 9-10 this year in Riyadh.

"The Philippines stands to benefit from the current invigoration of the Saudi economy, which is attributed mainly to the economic reforms launched by the Kingdom five years ago," Romulo said.

Among these reforms were the reduction of Saudi government restrictions and the encouragement of foreign investments that include those in natural gas, refining crude oil and in mining, according to the DFA.

Travelog

SUMMER TOUR PACKAGES UNTIL MAY 2005

SINGAPORE from US$318 2 nights hotel accommodation	KUALA LUMPUR from US$398 2 nights hotel accommodation	BALI from US$408 3 nights hotel accommodation	BANGKOK & SINGAPORE from US$418 3 nights hotel accommodation
SIEM REAP* (Cambodia), DANANG* (Vietnam) & SINGAPORE from US$658 6 days / 5 nights hotel & tour	AUSTRALIA from US$678 3 nights hotel accommodation	MALDIVES from US$748 3 nights hotel accommodation	NEW ZEALAND from US$1,208 4 days / 3 nights hotel & tour

Visit www.singaporeair.com/ph for more details on the above tour packages.

A GREAT WAY TO FLY
www.singaporeair.com/ph

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

* Destinations are served by Silk Air, the regional wing of Singapore Airlines.

Packages are available from 01 April to 31 May 2005. All prices quoted are per person, based on twin-sharing accommodation (single occupancy surcharge applies) and exclude taxes, fees and surcharges. Discount applies to children below 12 years old. Other terms and conditions apply.

For more information on the above packages, please call your travel agent or SIA Tours Desk at 751-5151 and 52. For departures from Cebu and Davao, please call (032) 232-6211 in Cebu and (082) 224-5608 in Davao.

100,000 IRAQI CIVILIAN KILLED
1,500 REPORTED G.I.'s KILLED
18 ACTIVISTS KILLED SINCE FEBRUARY
7 V-DAY BOMBINGS DEATHS

WORLDWIDE PROTEST
Filipino militant groups yesterday joined the global day of protest marking the second anniversary of the United States' invasion of Iraq. The militants listed not only the acts of atrocities committed in Iraq but those that had taken place in the Philippines as well. REM ZAMORA

Communists not keen on Holy Week ceasefire

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr., *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau,* and Juliet Labog-Javellana

LUCENA CITY—Communist rebels are lukewarm to Sen. Ralph Recto's proposal for a Holy Week ceasefire between the government and the New People's Army.

"First, there is no formal offer yet to that effect. Second, we can assure the Filipino people that our Red fighters are not inclined to conduct offensives during Holy Week in respect to the religious observance of the masses," communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

He added that the rebels did not want to disturb the masses.

Holy Week is a sacred moment for their prayer and meditation. We rest our guns by tradition," he said.

But Rosal quickly clarified that should there be a need for the NPA to launch tactical offensives, "it would only target our legitimate enemy, the military."

On Saturday, Recto urged Malacañang to call a ceasefire with communist rebels to allow the military and the police to focus their attention on the Abu Sayyaf.

The Muslim bandits are reportedly planning to attack churches in retaliation for the death of three of their leaders during last Tuesday's bloody assault at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig City, following a foiled jailbreak.

Recto urged the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the NPA, to observe a ceasefire.

Rosal said that to ensure the peaceful observance of Holy Week, he advised Recto to call on the military to stop its violent harassment of civilians in the countryside and its killing of leftist activists.

Recto proposed the ceasefire after authorities bared alleged plans of the Abu Sayyaf to conduct Holy Week bombings in Metro Manila.

He said the government needs to focus all its security resources on combating the terrorist threat.

"The quiet on the NPA front, so to speak, will afford the government [the chance] to give the Abu Sayyaf threat the undivided attention it deserves," Recto said.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo is considering an Easter truce with the communist rebels but she will wait for the advice of the military before making a decision, her spokesperson said Sunday.

"We will await the recommendation (of the armed forces) but the important thing is the long-term objective—to have peace in our country," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye said it would be the Armed Forces of the Philippines that would recommend whether the government should declare a unilateral ceasefire during the Lenten break. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, AFP*

Go about your business this week, citizens urged

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

POLICE and military officials yesterday urged the public to go about their usual activities this Holy Week, saying they had all possible terrorist targets, from churches to malls to bus terminals and ports covered.

"They should be assured that we are doing something to address the threat," said Armed Forces Lt. Gen. Allan Cabalquinto, National Capital Region Command (NCRCom) commander.

"The AFP and the PNP (Philippine National Police) are making concerted efforts to assure their safety," he added.

PNP Director Avelino Razon, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), said the police force had joined up with the NCRCom and PNP Special Action Force (SAF) to cover more ground.

"The public can rely on their police force to remain on duty. All leave passes have been cancelled. We are deploying additional personnel to guard vital installations," Razon said in a radio interview over dzBB.

"We are doing this so our people could celebrate the Holy Week and their summer vacation assured of their safety and not be scared of any threats," he said.

On Friday, PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao said the police had gathered intelligence reports about the Abu Sayyaf Group's plan to bomb Metro Manila and key Mindanao cities to avenge the deaths of their comrades in the botched jailbreak from Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, last week.

This accounted for the extra-tight security around Metro Manila this Holy Week.

"It is possible," replied Cabalquinto, when asked how serious the Abu Sayyaf bomb threat was, noting that this had been confirmed by no less than the PNP chief.

Cabalquinto said he had ordered at least two companies to augment the Western Police District and Southern Police District forces in Metro Manila "because there are a lot of big churches in their areas."

Catholics traditionally visit several churches on Holy Thursday to observe "the Way of the Cross."

"Before, we joined them (the police) in patrolling selected malls. Now we're shifting our joint patrols to religious sites where people normally congregate during Holy Week," Cabalquino said.

Due to the expected heavy exodus of Metro Manila residents to their home provinces during the long Holy Week break, authorities are tightening security in bus terminals and seaports.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

GenSan blast suspect nabbed in Sarangani

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Sarangani police on Saturday arrested a suspect in the Dec. 12 bombing at the public market here which killed 14 people and wounded 70 others.

Supt. Efren Valeriano, Sarangani police chief, said Andy Budiang, of Purok 4, Glan, Sarangani, was nabbed at around 10:30 a.m. on the strength of a warrant of arrest issued by a Davao City court.

Valeriano said Budiang was facing multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder charges in Davao City. It was not known what those charges were in connection with.

Valeriano said Budiang was also allegedly involved in various crimes like sea piracy and highway robbery in Sarangani.

He said no formal charges had been filed as yet by police against Budiang in connection with the Dec. 12 public market bombing here.

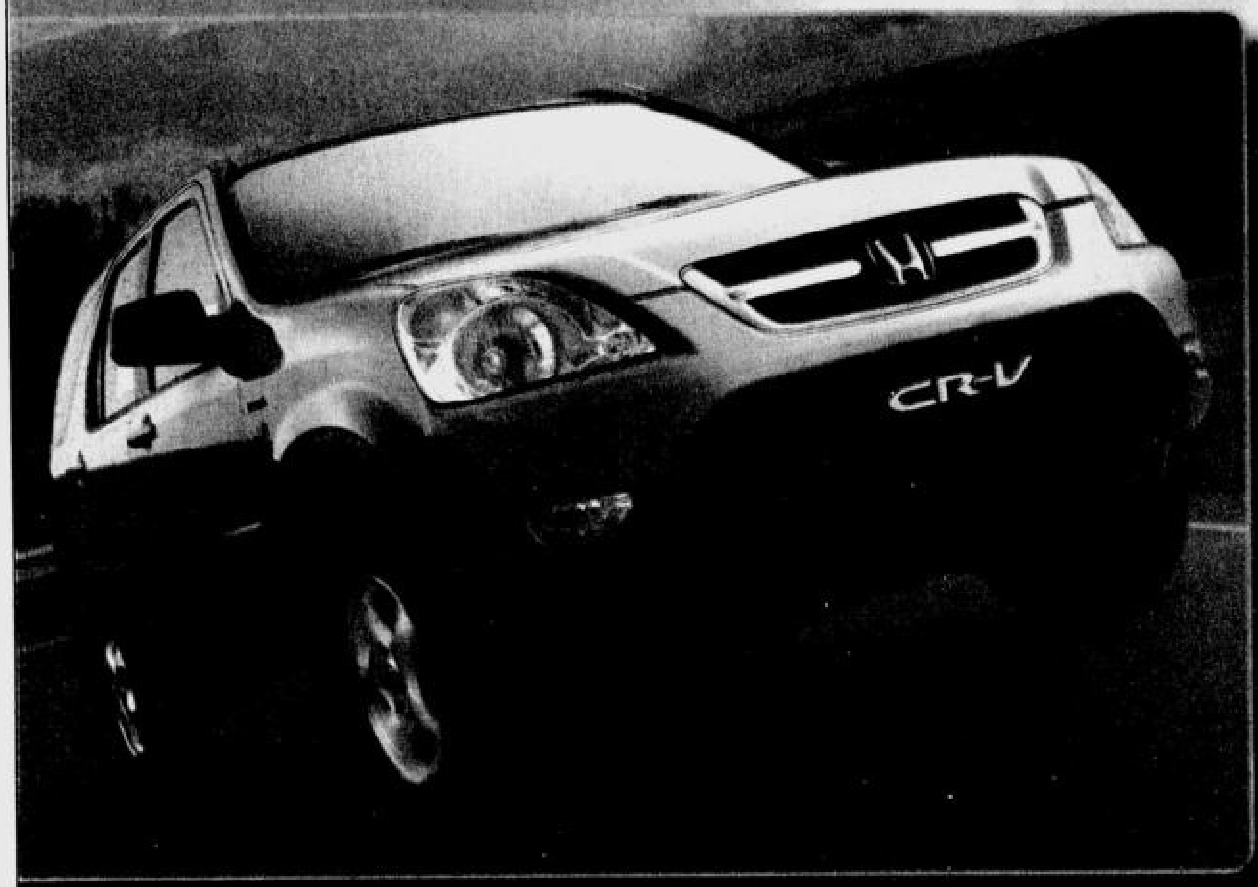
Budiang was turned over to the General Santos City police command for interrogation.

"It's up to the city police to file the necessary charges after a tactical interrogation," Valeriano said.

The Associated Press said a briefing report to Philippine National Police headquarters in Manila by regional police chief Antonio Billones identified Budiang as a suspected member of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AP*

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

What satisfies us more than being named the No.1 SUV*...



...is having to give it back to you.

Our CR-V couldn't have been the country's No.1* without you. So in return, we'll give you these great financing deals to make owning a new Honda easy for you!

- 0% Interest
  50% DP, 18 mos. on Jazz 1.3 A MT
  50% DP, 12 mos. on Civic and CR-V
- Low monthly installments!
- Low downpayment!
- As much as P40,000 discount for cash buyers!

Model/ Variant	SRP	Downpayment as low as 15%	Monthly Plan as low as 50% DP, 72 mos.
CITY 1.3 A MT	P 549,000	P 82,350	P 5,822
JAZZ 1.3 A MT	P 590,000	P 88,500	P 6,171
CIVIC 1.6 VTI MT	P 740,000	P 111,000	P 7,632
CR-V 2.0 4X2 5P MT	P 1,009,000	P 151,350	P 10,646

*All plans are subject to bank approval [illegible]

Promo extended until March 31, 2005!

*Based on CAMPI Sales Reports 2004 SUV Category

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0491 Series of 2005

Visit any authorized dealers for details:

Metro Manila

Honda Cars Makati, Inc.	Tel. No.: (02) 852 4181, Fax No: 852 1168
Honda Cars Alabang	Tel. No.: (02) 807 7889, Fax No: 809 5052
Honda Cars Kalookan, Inc.	Tel. No. (02) 366 5701, Fax No. 361 6445
Honda Cars Pasig	Tel. No.: (02) 634 2730, Fax No. 637 2582
Honda Cars Quezon City, Inc.	Tel. Nos.: (02) 712 6850 to 61, Fax No.: 732 6559
Honda Cars Shaw	Tel No.:(02) 717 1001, Fax No. 725 7073
Honda Cars Manila	Tel. No.: (02) 562 4548, Fax No.: 564 7338
Honda Cars Fairview	Tel. Nos.: (02) 9352655, 9352617, Fax No.: 9357654
Honda Cars Marikina	Tel. Nos.: (02) 9426202, 9980512, Fax No.: 9423561

Provincial

Honda Cars Cebu, Inc.	Tel. No.: (032) 2313602, Fax No.: (032) 2314488
Honda Cars San Pablo, Inc.	Tel. Nos. (049) 5627713 to 14, Fax No.: (049) 5627712
Honda Cars Pangasinan, Inc.	Tel. Nos.: (075) 5221488 to 89 Fax No.: (075) 5173739
Honda Cars Davao, Inc.	Tel. Nos.: (082) 2217408, 2222171, Fax No.: (082) 2217407
Honda Cars Pampanga, Inc.	Tel. No.: (045) 9635119, Fax No.: (045) 9635554
Honda Cars Negros Occidental	Tel. No.: (034) 7078009, Fax No.: (034) 4411278
Honda Cars Tarlac, Inc.	Tel. Nos.: (045) 9828002 to 06, Fax No. (045) 9828007
Honda Cars Cagayan De Oro	Tel. Nos.: (088) 8584010 to 12, Fax No. (088) 8584015
Honda Cars Gen. Santos, Inc.	Tel. Nos.: (083) 5539796 to 97, Fax No.: (083) 3013109
Honda Cars Isabela, Inc.	Tel. No.: (078) 6521245, Fax No.: (078) 6521248
Honda Cars Mandaue	Tel. No.: (032) 4223700, Fax No.: (032) 4223800

HONDA
www.hondaphil.com

Make Your Sexy Summer Fantasy Come True!

You've always dreamed of having a slimmer body and looking sexy in a bikini. Marie France can make your summer fantasy a reality! We'll show you the relaxing and effective way to melt away bulging fat and reduce ugly cellulite. Discover what Marie France can do for your body. And soon, you'll be wearing that sexy bikini this summer! Call us today for a FREE consultation.

Marie France Bodyline
www.mariefrance.com.ph
CALL 894-BODY (2639)

MAKATI ORTIGAS TIMOG BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA • TEL. 961-2981 CEBU • TEL: 233-7637

Head cut dooms RP idol

From page A1

Pacquiao's feared punches.

"I was not really bothered, but I also wanted to give the public what they deserve," Morales explained through an interpreter in the post-fight press conference.

The bloodied Pacquiao, who got cut in the fifth round, showed up wearing dark glasses at the presscon where he was loudly applauded.

He said he could've done a lot better had he not suffered the cut.

Conceded

But Pacquiao did not tarry and humbly conceded defeat.

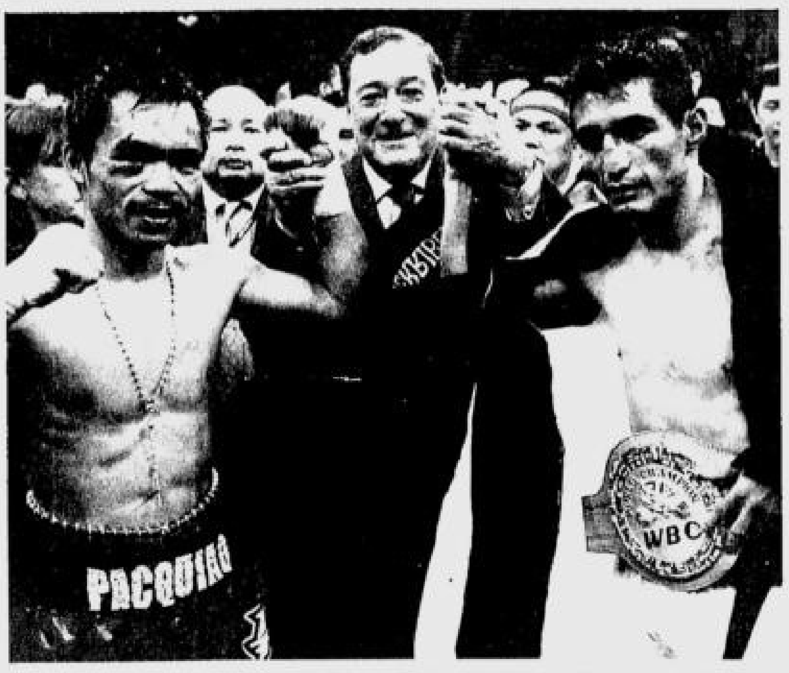
"I accept the decision, that's part of the game," he said and thanked his countrymen, including the many politicians, mostly congressmen on a break, who came to watch him fight.

The cut was ruled by referee Joe Cortez as the result of a punch, but a video replay showed it was caused by a headbutt.

It could have indeed been a different ending if not for the cut.

In fact, Filipino trainer Buboy Fernandez had to urge Pacquiao in the eighth round to try and finish the fight as blood continued to ooze and ruin his vision.

In his turn to speak, trainer Freddie Roach said something about the thicker gloves and how they had diminished Pacquiao's punching power.



BOXING promoter Bob Arum holds up the hands of Manny Pacquiao and Erik Morales, wearing the WBC belt, after the Mexican's win over the Filipino boxing idol. AP

"Let's do it again," Roach said.

Promoter Bob Arum said the Morales-Pacquiao bout was a blockbuster that sold over 20,000 seats, well over the 14,700 capacity earlier stated.

"This is a great match-up. Let Pacquiao heal, he's a terrific fighter. We can work a rematch later this year," Arum told Manila reporters.

In the Philippines, the fight did not feel too good as a pall of gloom descended on the country with the Pacquiao defeat.

A lot of people who had hoped to do some dancing in the streets ended up frustrated.

Arum smirked when told of a possible Morales fourth fight with Marco Antonio Barrera, the Mexican world super featherweight champion whom Pacquiao had knocked out in 2003.

"Barrera, forget about him," Arum snorted.

Members of Team Pacquiao are set to fly back to Manila today. But Pacquiao will linger a few more days here before returning home.

Barrera vindicated?

Pacquiao was honored by Filipino residents here at a party at Café Moda, a five-minute ride from the MGM Grand where he is staying.

But the bigger celebration belonged to the Mexicans who witnessed their perceived vindication of Barrera with Morales' victory over Pacquiao.

Of course, unlike Barrera who got stopped and shamed in San Antonio in 2003, Pacquiao left the arena last night to thunderous applause, his head held high.

Bad news came early to GenSan journalists

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—It was past noon and the television feed of the fight had not yet come in, but some people in Manny Pacquiao's hometown already knew that he had lost.

Before the telecast began, the US-based nephew of lawyer Thomas Falgui II sent his uncle an SMS message telling him that Mexican Eric Morales had beaten the city's idol.

An eerie silence reigned.

"Let's eat now, while we still have our appetite," Falgui said, hosting a sumptuous lunch for media people. "In a short while, we will see Pacquiao lose so it's better that we've had a good meal."

Almost everywhere in the city, residents were glued to their television sets watching the preliminaries.

Little did they know that in Las Vegas, Nevada, the fight had long been over.

"It was a humbling experience for Manny. It hurts us but the defeat was even more painful for him because his countrymen were expecting him to win," Falgui said.

Serafin Ramos Jr., Sarangani information officer, commented: "We could see during the fight that Morales could take the best shots of Pacquiao. So he needs more training, especially now that he had gone up to the super featherweight division."

"This is an eye-opener for Pacquiao. Maybe he realizes now that he's still a mortal being," said Rommel Rebollido, Socsksargen bureau chief of the Philippine News Agency.

The bout was still in its third round when the group parted ways. They still had to file their stories for today's issue. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GMA, rebels, street folk unite to cheer, grieve

From page A1

Marxist and Moro separatists took time out to monitor the bout over the radio.

"It's sad because most of us expected he would win by knocking out his foe," said Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has been fighting for a separate homeland in the south.

Pacquiao hails from General Santos City in Southern Mindanao.

"It's good he did not fall because that would have been more painful for us," Kabalu said.

In many areas in Mindanao's central region, villagers and rebels were glued to their radios, and some traveled to town centers to watch the boxing match on TV, Kabalu said.

Communist rebel spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said Pacquiao fought valiantly but lost, and if there were doubts about his defeat, Filipinos could seek a rematch.

International boxing referee Bruce McTavish summed it all up in a few words: "[Pacquiao] wasn't his normal self ... [He was] outboxed."

McTavish, who watched the fight on pay-per-view television in Angeles City, where he is based, was the referee when Pacquiao demolished Fabbrakob Rakkiatgym of Thailand in Davao City in 2002.

In Manila's streets, it was evident when Pacquiao landed a good punch by the howl of the crowd which yelled his name as they gathered around TV sets and radios.

At a shoe store in Manila's Port Area, a crowd of about 30 men listening to a radio saw the first sign of trouble when Pacquiao suffered a cut in the fifth round.

When the final decision was announced, they dispersed quietly, some shaking their heads.

Lawmakers praised Pacquiao for putting up a good fight.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said Pacquiao would remain one of the country's "greatest sports heroes."

"He makes us proud to be Filipinos, win or lose," the senator said.

Said Sen. Richard Gordon: "[His defeat would] make him a better fighter and a better champion in the future ... There's nothing to be ashamed of."

Lawyer Edgardo Pamintuan, the President's adviser for external affairs, said the head cut suffered by Pacquiao was a decisive factor.

"That ruined Pacquiao's fight," he said.

Angeles Councilor Jay Sangil said Pacquiao was a victor in defeat.

"For 12 whole rounds, the world stood still and people saw only two countries—the Philippines and Mexico. Even for just a moment, Filipinos were able to forget their problems," Sangil said.

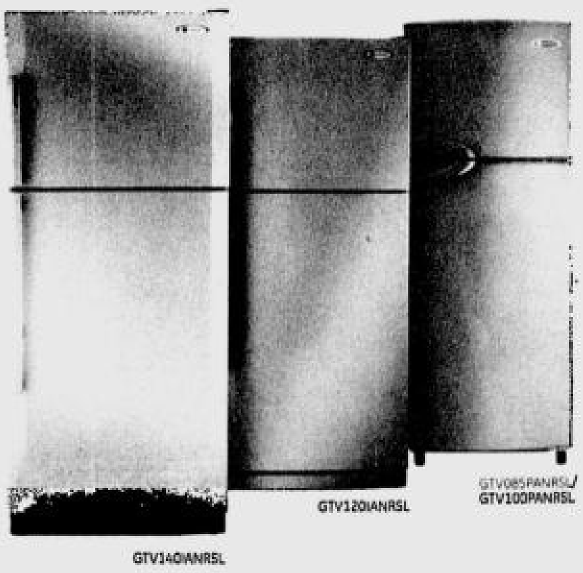
Olongapo City businessman Ernesto Santillan said the country mourned Pacquiao's loss.

"The whole Philippines will cry with Manny's defeat. We should get even," Santillan said. *AP with reports from Tonette Orejas and Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio*

GE Appliances
geappliances-philippines.com

With our No-Frost refs, you'll save cold cash instead of using it up.

The Asian No-Frost series of refrigerators from GE. **Designed specifically for our climate, it gives you GE cooling power for as little as P10 a day!** This efficiency, paired with tempered glass shelves and a multi-air flow system that prevents build-up of frost gives you all the convenient refrigeration you need, for a surprisingly low cost. That's the Asian No Frost refrigerator from GE. Cool inside and out.



GE imagination at work

P10/day computation is based on basic charges of Metro Manila household rates.

Computation is also based on the international standard of testing under ISO8561.

Computation is based on the smallest capacity model GTV085.

Computation is exclusive of Meralco's surcharges (because they are not dependent on power consumption) which are as follows 1) Retail charge; 2) CERA; 3) Franchise taxes; 4) Energy tax.

CYA Industries Incorporated
Official Distributor:
CYA Industries Inc.
#103 Mercedes Avenue,
Brgy. San Miguel, Pasig City

CALL NOW (02) 631-0282 Shangri-La, (02) 633-9953 Megamall, (02) 687-1566 Cybermall-Eastwood, (02) 815-8875 MC Home Depot-Fort Bonifacio, (02) 887-0075 Glorietta 4

Available at all leading appliance stores nationwide.

Not all features are available in all models.

Nationwide Service Center Hotline: (02) 643 3456

FANTASTIC!

Get a free stand fan worth P1,495.00 from GE with every purchase of any of the selected GE appliances. Promo valid until May 31, 2005 only.

Offer applies to purchase of any of the following selected GE appliances: window type airconditioners, single-door refs, 2 door direct cool refs, asian topmount, stainless steel topmount and bottom mount refs, clean steel topmount and chest freezers. [illegible] Permit No. 1055 Series of 2005.

Roxas: Probe bank fees charged OFWs

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. MAR Roxas wants banks investigated for allegedly imposing excessive charges on the dollar remittances of millions of overseas Filipinos workers.

Roxas, chair of the Senate committee on trade and commerce, said yesterday the Senate probe would seek to craft legislation to protect overseas workers from "possible abuses."

He cited a local bank that collects $6 for each remittance coursed through a subsidiary in the United States.

"Assuming the OFW concerned sends money home at least once a month, at $6 for each transfer, over 12 months, he or she would have spent a total of $72 [or P4,000], which is equivalent to 16 days' minimum wage here," Roxas said in a statement.

ROXAS

In Resolution 216, Roxas, who also chairs the committee on economic affairs, said the Senate would inquire into "possible interventions" that could improve the efficiency of remittances, foster competition and bring down the cost of sending money home to the Philippines.

"The bulk of remittances is meant for low-income families since two-thirds of our OFWs come from the provinces. We must ensure that our OFWs and their families are getting the full value of their money," he said.

Roxas believes there is still "room for a reduction in fees" without eroding the profitability of companies the engaged in the remittance business "considering the advances in technology."

Ensuring the efficiency of remittances, he said, would not only translate into higher incomes for Filipino families, but allow the government "to mobilize" such remittances to achieve its economic development goals.

Remittances by overseas workers are the country's second biggest source of foreign exchange next to product exports.

Annual OFW remittances had risen to $8.5 billion in 2004 from $103 million in 1975, making the country the third-largest recipient of migrant remittances behind India and Mexico, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

At the Special Summit of the Americas in Monterey, Mexico, in January 2004, countries in the western hemisphere called for a 50 percent reduction in the cost of remittances by 2008, according to Roxas.

The finance and central bank chiefs of the Group of Seven—the US, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan—vowed in April 2004 to work on initiatives "to reduce barriers that raise the cost of sending remittances" and integrate remittance services in the formal financial sector, he said.

RP sea marshals draw Australia, NZ interest

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COUNTRY'S year-old Task Force Sea Marshals, which was put in place after the SuperFerry14 bombing last year, has attracted international attention.

Representatives from the uniformed services of Australia and New Zealand expressed interest in the sea marshal system that the Philippine Coast Guard had implemented to prevent terrorist attacks in port areas, terminals and ships, according to Commodore Wilfredo Tamayo of the PCG's National Capital Region-Central Luzon office.

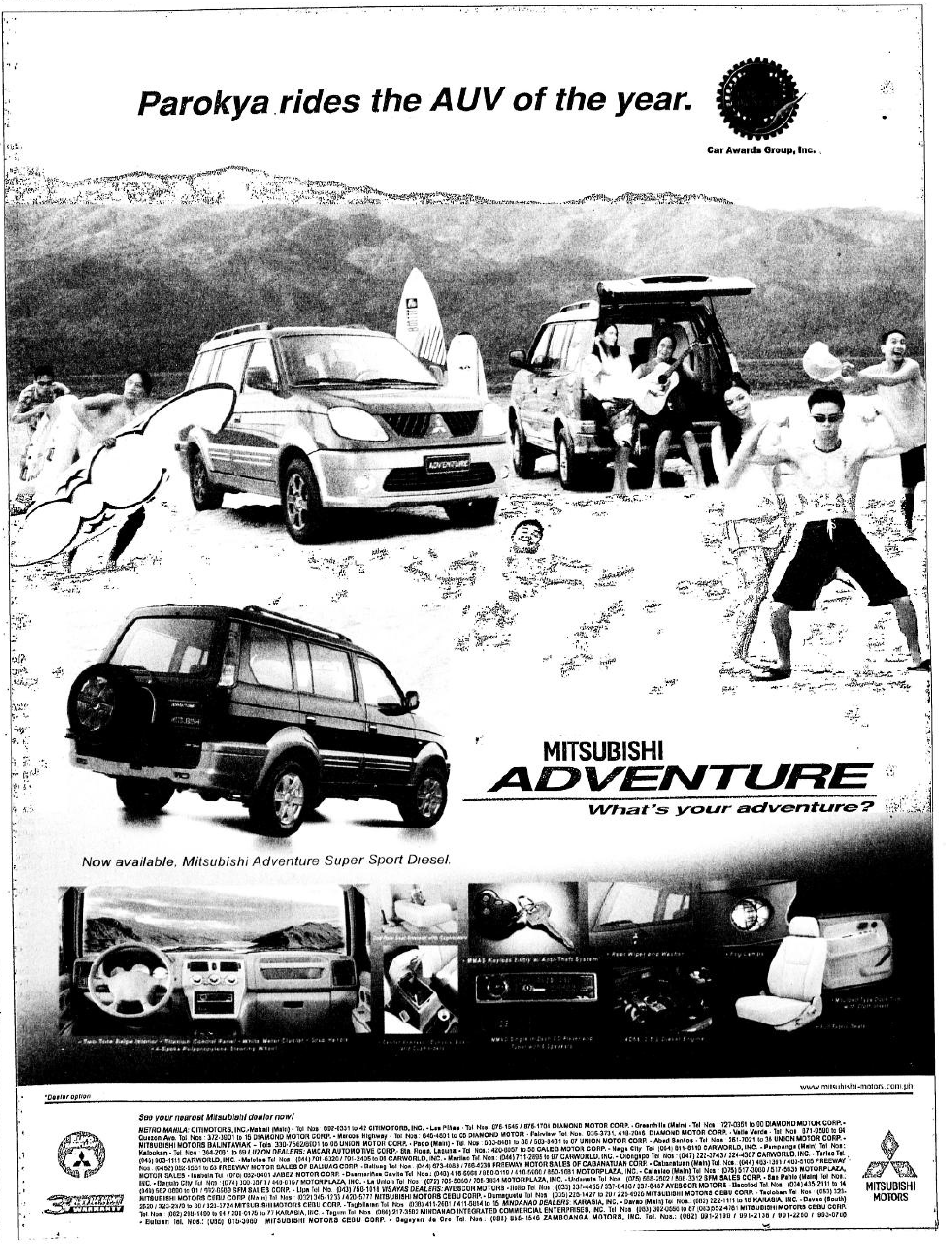
Tamayo said the representatives met with him last month to inquire about the system and to discuss a possible joint or cross-training of the countries' Coast Guard personnel.

"They saw the relevance of the sea marshals in maritime security," he told the INQUIRER. "They wanted to pick whatever is applicable to them. They also offered assistance. (The discussion) was more on the cooperation in the fight against terrorism."

Tamayo said it would be the higher-ranking PCG officials who would finalize any agreement between the two countries and the Philippines.

The PCG was designated by the President as the lead agency in securing ships in the country after the bombing of the SuperFerry 14 in February last year, hence the formation of the Task Force Sea Marshals.

According to Tamayo, the sea marshals have become relevant because of the paradigm shift after the 9/11 terrorist attacks which made anti-terror measures a necessity.



www.mitsubishi-motors.com.ph

*Dealer option

See your nearest Mitsubishi dealer now!

METRO MANILA: CITIMOTORS, INC.-Makati (Main) - Tel Nos 892-0331 to 42 CITIMOTORS, INC. - Las Piñas - Tel Nos 876-1545 / 876-1704 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Greenhills (Main) - Tel Nos 727-0351 to 60 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Quezon Ave. Tel Nos : 372-3801 to 15 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Marcos Highway - Tel Nos.: 645-4801 to 05 DIAMOND MOTOR - Fairview Tel. Nos. 935-3731, 418-2046 DIAMOND MOTOR CORP. - Valle Verde - Tel Nos 671-0500 to 04 MITSUBISHI MOTORS BALINTAWAK – Tels 330-7662/6001 to 06 UNION MOTOR CORP. - Paco (Main) - Tel. Nos : 563-8401 to 06 / 563-8401 to 07 UNION MOTOR CORP. - Abad Santos - Tel Nos 251-7021 to 30 UNION MOTOR CORP. - Kalookan - Tel. Nos 364-2061 to 69 *LUZON DEALERS:* AMCAR AUTOMOTIVE CORP.- Sta. Rosa, Laguna - Tel Nos.: 420-8057 to 58 CALEB MOTOR CORP. - Naga City Tel (054) 811-6119 CARWORLD, INC. - Pampanga (Main) Tel Nos : (045) 963-1111 CARWORLD, INC. - Malolos Tel Nos (044) 791-6320 / 791-2405 to 06 CARWORLD, INC. - Marilao Tel Nos.: (044) 711-2605 to 07 CARWORLD, INC. - Olongapo Tel Nos : (047) 222-3743 / 224-4307 CARWORLD, INC. - Tarlac Tel Nos. (0452) 982-5561 to 63 FREEWAY MOTOR SALES OF BALIUAG CORP. - Baliuag Tel Nos . (044) 673-4063 / 766-4230 FREEWAY MOTOR SALES OF CABANATUAN CORP. - Cabanatuan (Main) Tel. Nos.: (044) 463-1301 / 463-5105 FREEWAY MOTOR SALES - Isabela Tel (078) 682-8401 JABEZ MOTOR CORP. - Dasmariñas Cavite Tel Nos.: (046) 416-6966 / 850-0119 / 416-5000 / 850-1681 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - Calasiao (Main) Tel Nos (075) 517-3000 / 517-5635 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - Baguio City Tel Nos : (074) 300-3871 / 440-0167 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - La Union Tel Nos (072) 705-5050 / 705-3834 MOTORPLAZA, INC. - Urdaneta Tel Nos (075) 568-2602 / 568-3312 SFM SALES CORP. - San Pablo (Main) Tel Nos.: (049) 562-0800 to 01 / 562-6609 SFM SALES CORP. - Lipa Tel No. (043) 756-1018 *VISAYAS DEALERS:* AVESCOR MOTORS - Iloilo Tel Nos (033) 337-4465 / 337-0486 / 337-0487 AVESCOR MOTORS - Bacolod Tel Nos (034) 435-2111 to 14 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP (Main) Tel Nos (032) 345-1253 / 420-5777 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Dumaguete Tel Nos (035) 225-1427 to 29 / 225-0926 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Tacloban Tel Nos : (053) 323-2520 / 323-2379 to 80 / 323-3724 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Tagbilaran Tel Nos (038) 411-2601 / 411-5814 to 15 *MINDANAO DEALERS:* KARASIA, INC. - Davao (Main) Tel Nos.: (082) 222-1111 to 18 KARASIA, INC. - Davao (South) Tel Nos : (082) 298-1490 to 94 / 298-0175 to 77 KARASIA, INC. - Tagum Tel Nos (084) 217-3502 MINDANAO INTEGRATED COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel Nos (083) 302-0586 to 87 (083)552-4781 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Butuan Tel. Nos.: (085) 815-3060 MITSUBISHI MOTORS CEBU CORP. - Cagayan de Oro Tel Nos : (088) 856-1546 ZAMBOANGA MOTORS, INC. Tel. Nos.: (062) 991-2100 / 991-2138 / 991-2260 / 993-0708

Higher taxes on plastic to raise revenues urged

By Blanche S. Rivera

ENVIRONMENTALISTS are proposing higher taxes on plastic products and other "dirty packaging" items to raise much-needed revenues for the government while at the same time protecting the environment.

Von Hernandez, campaigns director of Greenpeace International for Southeast Asia, said the plastics tax could work in the same way as the "sin taxes" which imposed higher excise taxes on cigarettes and liquor products.

The sin taxes, approved last year, seek mainly to raise around P25 billion for the government, although anti-smoking advocates are hoping it would also lessen Filipinos' consumption of cigarettes and liquor.

"Why not tax those who are producing items that are damaging to the environment as well? Someone has to pay for this," Hernandez said in an interview.

He said the Philippines could follow the example of Taiwan and Ireland, the only two countries in the world so far that have imposed heavier taxes on makers of plastic.

Experts from Greenpeace are studying how much in revenues the government could raise by taxing manufacturers of "dirty packaging" items, like plastic, styrofoam and other single-use containers and disposables.

Hernandez said the difficult part was to quantify the effects of such packaging materials on the environment and translate these into a tax measure.

"Remember, these things remain in the environment even if you have disposed of them. In the end, it's the public that subsidizes the disposal of these products," he said.

Greenpeace, one of the organizers of a recent environmental summit, was instrumental in the passage of environment laws such as the Clean Air Act and the Ecological Waste Management Act.

Hernandez said it was time the government shifted its strategy from pollution control to prevention. The tax on plastics would address nonrecyclable waste production while generating revenues to fund environmental programs.

Stamps to mark Hu state visit

THE PHILIPPINES will issue commemorative stamps to honor the state visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao next month, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The DFA recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine Postal Corp. (PhilPost) and Tulay Foundation Inc. on the issuance of the commemorative stamps.

"The issuance of special stamps underscores the high level of importance we place on our relations with China," said Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said during the MoA signing.

Hu's is scheduled to visit the country on April 26-28.

The MoA was signed by Romulo, postmaster general and PhilPost chief executive officer Dario Rama and Tulay Foundation chair Manuel O. Chua.

DFA spokesperson Gilbert Asuque said in an interview that preparations were well underway for the project and that there had already been ideas suggested for the stamps' designs.

Romulo said in the statement that, "This endeavor highlights the vision shared by the Philippines and China that the visit will strengthen the new golden age of partnership in our thirty years of bilateral relations.

The stamps will be officially launched on April 27, in the middle of President Hu's visit, Romulo said.

Nikko Dizon

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a front page story—"Boys' rite of passage best on Black Saturday"—misstated a point of reference when one travels by land to Bulalacao, the southernmost part of Oriental Mindoro. It takes five hours to travel by land to Bulalacao from Puerto Galera—not Puerto Princesa City.

***

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

WOW!™ MAGIC SING PREMIUM Videoke Anytime, Anywhere!
Sing through the Philippines!
The Only Videoke Microphone that Promotes Philippine Tourism
WOW PHILIPPINES
Jomabo Island Resort
Bagumbanua Island
Negros Occidental
JOMABO ISLAND PARADISE BEACH RESORT. This resort is located in Bagumbanua Island, Negros Occidental. This is an elongated island covered with white sand & green meadows with vegetation dominated by Roma Species. Jose G. Montalbo purchased Bagumbanua Island in 1999. The resort derives its name from Jose & Marilou Montalbo.
WOW 2005 EDITION
Be a Tourism Promoter & enjoy endless singing enjoyment!
Exclusive Values
55 built-in WOW PHILIPPINES Picture Backgrounds
Full-color Picture Guide
BIYAHE Tayo! BONUS SONG!
BIYAHE Tayo! VCD* For every purchase of Duet Mic & Tagalog Song chip
Tara na, Videoke Tayo!
In Cooperation with: I ♥ PHILIPPINES
Life is our life's work®
AVAILABLE AT: Made in Korea by: ET ENTERTECH Co. Ltd.
* "BIYAHE Tayo!" is a Travel Advocacy Campaign Program of Pfizer/Bonamine.
odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO · Automatic CENTRE · AstroVision · ABENSON · WESTERN · TOWER RECORDS · M · MUSIC VIDEO · Home & Office Center · ASTROPLUS · AVSurfer · Avid BRANDS! · TIONGSAN HARRISON
Also Available at other leading Appliance and Music Stores Nationwide.
Exclusively Distributed by In-a-Jiffy · www.magicsing.com & G2K Corporation www.wowmagicsing.com Tel Nos.: (632) 401 6178 / (632) 722 5527

THE NEW NEGROS NAVIGATION NOW STRONGER THAN EVER
WITH
22 trips weekly to Manila ◆ 12 trips weekly to Iloilo ◆ 9 trips weekly to Cagayan de Oro, Surigao, Butuan, San Francisco, Malaybalay, Valencia, Maramag, Wao, Davao City, Kabacan, North Cotabato, Tacurong (through the CDO hub).
7 trips weekly to Bacolod ◆ 3 trips weekly to Roxas
2 trips weekly to Boracay, Tagbilaran, Iligan
Regular trips: Palawan, Dumaguit, Estancia, Zamboanga, Ozamiz, Dipolog, Pagadian.
Visit the Negros Navigation sales outlet nearest you for a complete listing of the trip schedules or call the NN hotline: (02) 245-5588
NEGROS NAVIGATION NN
THE NEW NEGROS NAVIGATION
A Proud Member of the METRO PACIFIC GROUP OF COMPANIES

Bush stokes …

From page A1

nated John Bolton, the ultra-hardliner undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, as the US ambassador to the United Nations. Bolton has attracted international attention as a "UN basher."

The nominations came as a shock in view of the fact that both persons are seen as arch-conservatives in the Bush administration. Together with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Vice President Richard Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Richard Perle, Wolfowitz and Bolton form the core of the second Bush administration's team of defense and foreign policy.

The nomination of Wolfowitz raised questions not only about his suitability as World Bank chief, but was also viewed as a fresh assertion of Bush's attempts to reinforce US hegemonic tendencies in foreign policy with control of World Bank policies.

'Skilled diplomat'

Although Bush described Wolfowitz as "a compassionate, decent man" with "good experience" in managing large organizations and "a skilled diplomat," his accolades failed to allay misgivings over whether Wolfowitz's nomination would mean overturning Wolfensohn's accent on alleviating global poverty as the bank's key policy priority.

Wolfensohn has acquired a reputation for having a humanist streak, aside from having brought to the bank considerable experience in international banking and investments.

Under Wolfenshon, the World Bank undertook a strong anticorruption campaign among developing countries, using transparency in governance as a condition to the extension of low-interest loans to countries seeking financial aid. The bank has aided an ongoing anticorruption program in the Philippines.

The BBC reported that there was "cool response" to Wolfowitz's nomination in Europe. According to the report, French and German ministers had expressed "faint praise," while Sweden's foreign minister said she was skeptical about the nomination. "The nomination in old Europe is not exactly overwhelming," the minister said.

Germany, which, together with France, strongly opposed the US invasion of Iraq, saw the nomination as a reassertion of the unilateralist tendencies of American foreign policy. Germany's development minister said "they were supposed to consult us and there was no consultation."

Questioned

The Independent newspaper in London questioned Wolfowitz's credentials. It said: "The Pentagon does not naturally recommend itself as a nursery for World Bank executives, least of all the Pentagon of George Bush, and Donald Rumsfeld. Nor does Mr. Wolfowitz himself seem qualified for the role. His main experience of the less developed world was as spell as ambassador to Indonesia a long time ago."

A Financial Times analyst, Adam Posen, said Wolfowitz would be effective in pursing US foreign policy goals heading the World Bank than staying in the Pentagon.

It was the fact that Wolfowitz's nomination came after Bolton's nomination that unsettled the Europeans who were skeptical that Bush's reconciliation trip to Europe in February had meant a softening of the US unilateral foreign policy.

In view of the fact that Bolton has been a harsh critic of the United Nations, his nomination as ambassador to the world body raised questions about the sincerity of Bush's "charm offensive" in Europe.

"Bolton followed by Wolfowitz sounds like a declaration of war," the French commentator, Nicole Cacharan, said. "And if not that, a declaration of contempt."

Clare Short, Britain's former development secretary, told Channel 4 News that Bush's action was the equivalent of sticking up "two fingers to the world. This is really shocking. It's as though they are trying to wreck our international systems."

Bolton's visage and harsh criticism of the United Nations lend themselves to the strong perception that Bush has nominated him to spite the world body rather than to repair Washington's already tattered relations with the international organization.

Grouchy-looking

A grouchy-looking man, Bolton wears a brush moustache, the signature ensemble of American military leaders dispatched to lead American expeditionary forces in Cuba and in the Philippines during the Spanish-American war, a time when the United States was intoxicated with its first whiff of imperial conquest.

If one reviews the London Illustrated Weekly of America's expeditions at the turn of the 19th century, one will find that Bolton's ferocious-looking image fits into the gallery of American warriors during the heydays of America's empire-building.

Journalists covering the US Department of State report that Bolton keeps a model hand-grenade in his office and they have never explained why he does this. They recall his work on the 1991 repeal of a UN General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism as a career highlight.

Among those disturbed by Bolton's nomination was Democratic Sen. John Kerry who lost to Bush in the 2004 election. "Why would (President Bush) choose someone who has expressed such disdain for working with our allies?" Kerry said.

Bolton's scathing criticism of the United Nations has scarcely been concealed, and it contradicts the recommendation of Rice that she and Bush had asked Bolton to do this work "because we know how to get things done," which, according to critics, includes wrecking the world body.

She said Bolton was "personally committed" to the United Nations' success and had a "proven track record of effective multilateralism."

Comments on UN

Here are some of the more memorable pronouncements of Bolton on the United Nations.

On the UN bureaucracy: "The (UN) Secretariat building in new York has 38 storys. If it lost 10 storys, it wouldn't make a bit of difference."

On US arrears to the United Nations in 1998: "Many Republicans in Congress not only do not care about losing the General Assembly vote but actually see it as a 'make my day' outcome. (It) will simply provide further evidence to many why nothing more should be paid to the UN system."

Bolton's nomination came in the midst of negotiations for a program of reform to be put to the General Assembly in September and followed unsuccessful attempts by the Bush administration to oust Kofi Annan as UN secretary general over alleged corruption in the management of UN oil for food program in Iraq.

Ex-world boxing …

From page A1

went down in shame.

Rolando Navarrete, a former World Boxing Council junior lightweight champion, lost to a woman, who took just a single shot to knock him out.

On Saturday, at past 9 a.m., Navarrete engaged his neighbor, Jennifer Abellanosa, in an argument over a trivial matter in Laray Bagsakan, a drop-off point for farm goods.

As tempers flared, Navarrete, nicknamed the "Bad Boy from Dadiangas (the former name of this city)," allegedly pushed Abellanosa, who landed flat on the ground.

Not contented, the former boxing champ tried to deliver a punch, but Abellanosa managed to grab a steel pipe and, with all her strength, hit him in the head.

Navarrete staggered before falling to the ground. He tried to get up, but his knees wobbled. He dropped unconscious.

Onlookers rushed him to a nearby hospital where he was treated.

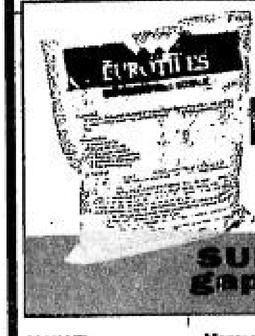
Abellanosa was brought to the Bula police station. There, the woman claimed she was just defending herself. She showed the police her clothes, which, she said, were soiled after Navarrete pushed her.

She said she had no regrets in knocking down Navarrete, who, she said, had become a pain in the neck in their neighborhood in Llido Subdivision.

The case was amicably resolved. A few hours after Navarrete arrived at the police station, he forgave the woman.

The former boxing champ just asked for P500 as settlement for his injury. Police released Abellanosa after she paid the amount.

EUROTILES
SUPERIOR CERAMIC TILES
Styled to last



SRP METRO MANILA
P25.00 only
Gray
SUPERIOR gap FILLER

CERAMIC TILES' POWER PARTNERS

EUROTILES SUPERIOR TILE GROUT

EUROTILES SUPERIOR TILE ADHESIVE

Available in leading hardware stores nationwide

NOW ONLY P180.00
SRP METRO MANILA
25kg
better BONDING POWER

MAKATI
Federal Hardware
893-1864

MANILA
A&W Hardware
732-8210
First Nesco Bldrs.
242-8731
Golden Lion
733-8888
Samac Crystal Mktg.
400-4959
William's Plumbing
733-3203

CALOOCAN
Jobilan Tile Center
930-8738

PASAY
Ceramic Plaza
834-7537
Chong Yuen
853-9260

QUEZON CITY
An-Vel Trading
749-3011
Ceramic Plaza
731-1360
372-4687
Corona Pacific
361-6788
CYK Distributors
783-9901
Federal Hardware
421-9250
732-1906
428-4844
Elegance Bldrs. Ctr.
427-2344
Handyman
935-1888

Manrace
740-9592
Nazil Tile Center
939-9736
Open Option
731-8168
Magacom
435-9174

MANDALUYONG
Handyman
687-5083

PASIG
Ceramic Plaza
643-7728

MARIKINA
Marikina Miles Mdsg.
948-5539
Sygal Int'l. Sales Corp.
942-1818

PARAÑAQUE
Ceramic Plaza
829-5417
Federal Hardware
788-0773

LAS PIÑAS
Homeplus Bldrs. Ctr.
874-2015
Sogo Bldrs. Supply
874-5351

MUNTINLUPA
Ceramic Plaza
861-1776
Federal Hardware
807 8672

BULACAN
BJ Commercial
(044) 696-0520
Ceramic Plaza
(044) 673-0445
(044) 690-0606
(044) 840-0348
ECG Enterprises
(044) 901-1088
Federal Hardware
(044)692-8719
Uni Top Hardware
(044) 696-0606

TARLAC
Ceramic Plaza
(045) 800-0212
Federal Hardware
(045) 611-0326

PAMPANGA
Ceramic Plaza
(045) 887-4611
Federal Hardware
(045) 888-4186
(045) 893-3988
Balibago JC Comm'l.
(045) 892-5048

OLONGAPO
JBC Tiles Ctr.
(047) 224-3906

CABANATUAN
T&T Home Imp. Ctr.
(044) 463-3501

BAGUIO
Interiors & Beyond
(074) 447-0890
Pines Home
(074) 442 3677

LA UNION
Phil. Topwood
(072) 700-0220

ILOCOS SUR
Five Star Lumber
(077) 742-6238
Oriental Bros. Trading
(077) 722-2565
Vigan Fortune Lumber
(077) 742-6344

ABRA
Abra Fairway
(074) 752-8496

LAOAG
Laoag Newton
(077) 770-5697

ISABELA / NUEVA VIZCAYA
Buildhaus Ctr.
(078) 326-5284
Isabela Washington
(078) 682-7468
Rai Strong
(078) 652-1361
Valiente's Lumber
(078) 642-7579

TUGUEGARAO
Carag Enterprises
(078) 844-8056

RIZAL
Ceramic Plaza,
678-0692
Federal Hardware
678-1638
284-2206
Handyman
668 1354

LAGUNA
Federal Hardware
(049) 839-2069
(049) 245-6687
F. G. Rock & Marble
(049) 545-0156
Kian Seng
(049) 562-0387
Maquiling Bldrs. Depot
520-8361
834-2610

CAVITE
Details Home Imp.
(046) 505-3744
Empyrean Homebuilders
(046) 434-7062
Eurohomes
(046) 471-5189
Happy Builders
(046) 419-1982
Federal Hardware
(046) 870-2598
(046) 416-3743
(046) 875-4840
I. S. Santos
(046) 471-4683
Life's Tile
(046) 434-6284
Villaroy Trading
(046) 419-1986

BATANGAS
John & Carl Trading
(043) 409-1993
Manalo's Bldrs. Supply
(043) 727-2086
NCA Const. Supply
(043) 727-3848

LUCENA
Quality Ceramics
(042) 411 7608

MINDORO
Prima Enterprises
(043) 288-4449

BICOL
AC Home Builders
(056) 211-1637
Emerald Hardware
(054) 721-2618
S & J Hardware
(054) 473-0787

AKLAN
MBC Trading
(036) 268-8970

ROXAS
G. Centillo
(036) 621-3728

BACOLOD
AVA Construction
(034) 433-0263
Bacolod Builders
(034) 434-2812
CJC Hi-Tech
(034) 435-3603
Solid Gold Const.
(034) 433-8773

ILOILO
Multi L & A
(033) 336-3182
Moost Brand
(033) 336-3183

CEBU
Cebu Worldwide
(032) 346-0959
Central Lumber
(032) 255 2870

Filmon Hardware
(032) 253-1493
Globe Home
(032) 343-7582

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
YCT Builders
(034) 312-5555

TAGBILARAN
Herbert Malmis Hardware
(038) 411-3008

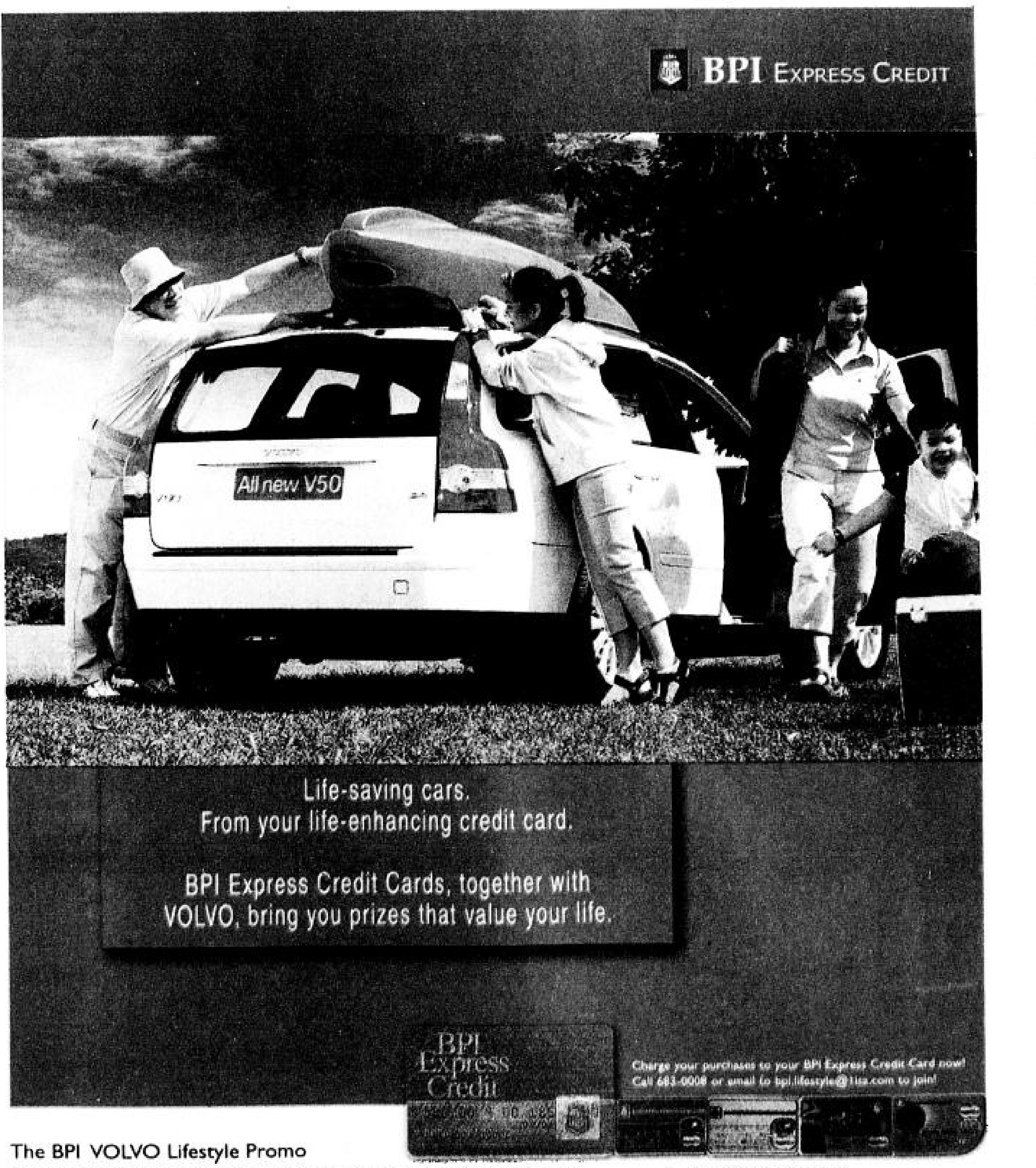
TACLOBAN
Cosmic Mktg.
(053) 325-6165

DAVAO
Cisa Mktg.
(082) 222-9132
SKS Interiors
(082) 221-3382

OZAMIS
Pagadian Homebuilders
(062) 214-1770

CAGAYAN DE ORO
J. S. Gen. Merchandise
(088) 857-2034

OROQUETA
SBU Const. Supply
(088) 531-1187



Life-saving cars.
From your life-enhancing credit card.

BPI Express Credit Cards, together with VOLVO, bring you prizes that value your life.

Charge your purchases to your BPI Express Credit Card now! Call 683-0008 or email to bpi.lifestyle@1isa.com to join!

The BPI VOLVO Lifestyle Promo

BPI Express Credit: Classic/Burgundy, Blue MasterCard, Gold MasterCard, Edge and Mini Edge

Every P500 single purchase gives you one raffle entry. To join, register your purchases by calling the promo hotline: 683-0008 for Metro Manila callers; 1-800-10-683-0008 for callers outside Metro Manila.

You can also register your purchases through email: bpi.lifestyle@1isa.com. Just email the following purchase information as they appear in your charge slip: (1) 16-digit BPI Express Credit card number (2) transaction amount, including centavos (3) transaction date: mm/dd/yy (4) transaction time: hh/mm.

VOLVO V50 Sports Wagon. Prize for BPI Express Credit Classic/Burgundy or BPI Express Credit Blue MasterCard

VOLVO S80 Executive Sedan. Prize for BPI Express Credit Gold MasterCard

NEW! VOLVO S40 Sports Sedan. Prize for BPI Express Credit Edge and Mini Edge*

*Approved by DTI-NCR

For BPI Express Credit: Classic/Burgundy, Blue MasterCard, Gold MasterCard, Edge and Mini Edge, promo period is from November 15, 2004 to April 30, 2005. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3121, Series of 2004.

Petron-BPI Express Credit

Every P500 Petron fuel purchase in participating Petron stations gives you one raffle coupon. To join, fill up the coupon and drop in drop boxes at these stations.

VOLVO XC90 SUV. Prize for Petron-BPI Express Credit

For Petron-BPI Express Credit, promo period is from October 21, 2004 to April 30, 2005. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2521, Series of 2004.

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries. For application and inquiries, call BPI Express Phone 89-100, visit any BPI or BPI Family Bank branch or Express Banking Center or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com. Actual unit may vary from photo.

VOLVO
for life

Slain cop a hero in Ilocos Sur hometown

From page A1

her son had always dreamed of becoming a soldier or a policeman because of his desire to help keep the peace in the country.

She said her son also wanted to help them financially because they earned little from farming.

The young Areola entered the Philippine National Police in 2002, two years after obtaining a political science degree from the University of Northern Philippines in Vigan City.

A mother's fear

The Areola couple said they began to feel worried about their son's safety when news broke out that several Abu Sayyaf inmates had taken over Camp Bagong Diwa, killing three guards.

They stayed glued to their television set and transistor radio.

On Tuesday afternoon, they got a call from a police official telling them their son was dead.

Leticia is appealing for financial help.

Investigation launched

"We still do not know how to get money for his burial," she said.

Areola received the Medalya ng Sugatang Magiting (Wounded Personnel Medal)—the PNP equivalent to the Distinguished Conduct Star of the Armed Forces—and was posthumously promoted.

A fact-finding body is looking into the circumstances that led to the takeover of the prison and into the police assault.

Investigators will also look into the death of Areola.

One PNP official admitted there were "unconfirmed reports" circulating within the force that Areola was killed in a "misencounter" among lawmen.

A sacrificial lamb?

Another INQUIRER source said Areola was "grabbed" by an armed Abu Sayyaf bandit just as a group of VIPs, led by Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, was entering the prison compound.

Fearing Areola would be used as a shield, the SAF securing the VIPs fired a rifle grenade at the armed Abu Sayyaf, killing him and Areola, the source said.

"Areola was sacrificed to save the VIPs," claimed the source, who said he was inside the prison compound when it happened.

Director Avelino Razon, police chief for the National Capital Region, said no such thing happened.

Razon said Areola was with the lead SAF team conducting "clearing operations" when he was killed.

"Areola was hit, but he continued to shoot it out even if he was already wounded," Razon said.

He said one of the Abus that Areola had encountered was apparently armed with a grenade.

"So he grappled with the Abu for the grenade," Razon said.

NCRPO spokesperson Supt. Agremero Cruz Jr. supported Razon's account.

According to Cruz, Areola was in Cell No. 23 when he encountered two armed Abus. Areola shot one of them, but apparently he was also shot by the second Abu.

"Even with his wounds, Areola fought it out. It turned out the man had a grenade," Cruz said.

Cruz said: "It was not clear yet what happened next, that's why there is an investigation."

Saving his comrades

He said there were reports that "Areola covered the grenade with his body to save the lives of others."

INQUIRER sources who saw pictures of the dead Areola said he did not look like he had been shot with a .45-cal. pistol, with which the Abus were reportedly armed.

An explosives expert, Areola was trained never to enter a situation when feeling unsure about it.

Colleagues said Areola, an Ilocano, was "quiet that morning, but he was always a quiet man, so there was nothing unusual."

The fighter Areola was

"He was with EOD (explosive and ordnance disposal), and he was very stable when it came to making decisions. That is their training," a SAF group commander said.

"He was also very honest with himself. *Pag kinabahan o kabado, hindi siya papasok. Atras na* (If he felt nervous, he would not go in but would step back). That is okay with us, for his safety and for all of us," the officer said.

Areola underwent a rigid six-month SAF training in 2001 on basic warfare, close-quarter combat, and the use of weapons.

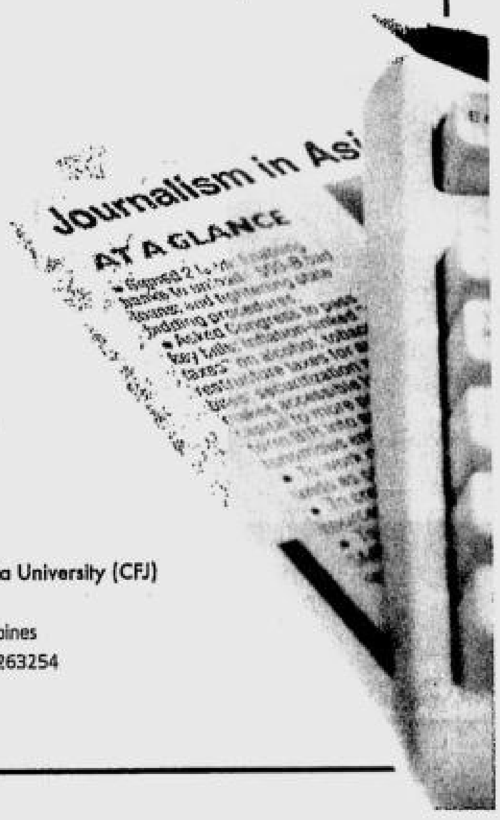
Testing their mettle

But even after completing training, a recruit would not be admitted into the unit until he went through an actual encounter or a test mission, the commander said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"No positive encounter, no graduation. That's how tough it is," he said.

Areola passed the training and pursued a specialization in explosives after passing a battery of neuropsychiatric tests, the officer said.

"Those who pass the exam are usually those who are very stable in their thinking. We cannot trust the explosives to those who are unstable because they might use it against the innocents," the officer said.



Konrad Adenauer
Center for Journalism
at the Ateneo de Manila University

The Konrad Adenauer Center for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University (CFJ) seeks to help Asian journalists meet time-honored standards of good journalism and face up to the challenges posed by the rapid advances in information and communication technology.

Master of Arts in Journalism
First Semester (June – October 2005)
- Advanced Reporting and Writing
- Media and Politics
- Media Ethics
- Media Law
- Newsroom Management
- Creative Writing
- Reporting About Information Technology
- Writing for Broadcast
- Reporting on Conflict and Peace

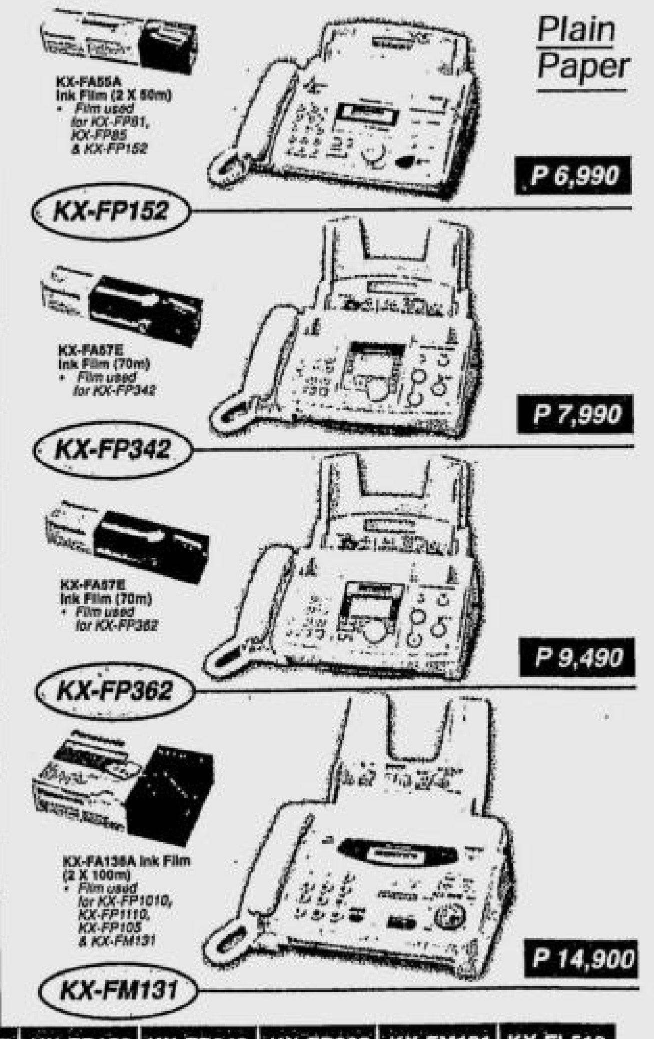
Diploma in Online Journalism
March – October 2005
- Computer-Assisted Reporting
- Reporting About Information Technology
- Online Journalism

Diploma in Broadcast Journalism
May – October 2005
- Writing for Broadcast
- Issues in Broadcast Journalism
- Radio and TV Production

Certificate in Reporting on Food and Agriculture
May 9 – June 11, 2005

Konrad Adenauer Center for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University (CFJ)
2nd Floor Department of Communication
Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108 Philippines
Tel Nos: (632) 4266001 local 5215; (632) 9263253 • Fax No: (632) 9263254
E-mail: newsroom@admu.edu.ph • Website: http://cfj.ateneo.edu

Journalism in Asi
AT A GLANCE



Panasonic
ideas for life

The high performing fax machine.
No wonder people choose Panasonic.

Thermal
NEW! KX-FT901 P 5,790
NEW! KX-FT903 P 6,490
NEW! KX-FT907 P 7,990

Laser
NEW! KX-FL512 P 17,490
KX-FA83E Toner Cartridge
• Toner used for KX-FL512
KX-FA84E Drum unit
• Drum unit used for KX-FL512

Plain Paper
KX-FP152 P 6,990
KX-FA55A Ink Film (2 X 50m)
• Film used for KX-FP81, KX-FP85 & KX-FP152
KX-FP342 P 7,990
KX-FA57E Ink Film (70m)
• Film used for KX-FP342
KX-FP362 P 9,490
KX-FA57E Ink Film (70m)
• Film used for KX-FP362
KX-FM131 P 14,900
KX-FA136A Ink Film (2 X 100m)
• Film used for KX-FP1010, KX-FP1110, KX-FP105 & KX-FM131

KEY FEATURES	KX-FT901	KX-FT903	KX-FT907	KX-FP152	KX-FP342	KX-FP362	KX-FM131	KX-FL512
Automatic Paper Cutter		●	●					
Document Feeder	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	10 sheets	15 sheets	20 sheets
Navigator Key	●	●	●	●	●	●		
64-Level Halftone	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Copy Speed				2 PPM	4 PPM	4 PPM	2 PPM	10 PPM
Digital Speaker Phone			●			●	●	
Document Memory		20 pages (max)	20 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	28 pages (max)	170 pages (max)
Digital Answering System			●			●	●	
Sequential Broadcast		10 locations	10 locations	20 locations	20 locations	20 locations	60 locations	20 locations
Printer Function							●	●
Scanner Function							●	●
PC Fax Function							●	
*Caller-ID Ready	●	●	●					●
Dial Lock Function	●	●	●					

*Caller-ID subscription required. Prices (SRP based), features and design are subject to change without prior notice.
For dealer referrals, please call: Panasonic Philippines (Sales Division of Matsushita Electric Phils. Corp.)
Tel. Nos. 899-4595 to 98 • Fax No. 897-4558 • Email address: system@mepco.panasonic.com.ph

PSE directors elect . . .

From page A1

to independent directors.

Peter Favila, 56, a former banker, was elected PSE chair yesterday morning without fanfare.

"I am glad from an independent director's point of view that the brokers have slowly accepted the spirit of the Securities Regulation Code," he said after the board meeting.

Favila's election was a landmark in PSE history after three powerhouse brokers—former PSE chair Alicia Rita Arroyo, Robert Coyiuto Jr. and Vivian Yuchengco—withdrew from making a pitch for chair at the board meeting.

"And how do I feel? As I feel every day. You wake up one day and say it is good you are still alive and that you are able to help people in one way or another whether in government or in the private sector," he said.

Favila said he had read about his possible election as chair in the newspapers.

"I didn't know all along. Being a nonbroker, this is the first time it is going to happen at the exchange, and it means a great deal of work," he said.

Investor education

Favila said that among his priorities was to improve the liquidity of the market, craft new marketable products, and promote the listing of new companies, especially small and medium enterprises.

He said there was also a need to strengthen investor education, enhance the use of technology, and encourage brokers to learn about risk management.

Reelected PSE president Francis Lim said Favila's election was not a sign that stockbrokers were losing control of the exchange.

On the contrary, it was a sign that they had matured, he said. The PSE has around 200 brokers.

"I look at it as a maturation process that they are entrusting the operation of the exchange to nonbrokers. Although we don't know as much as they do, we have proven during our term as directors that we are willing to learn and that we are working hard to learn the business," Lim said.

He acknowledged some reservations about the wisdom of the PSE having a chair and president who are both nonbrokers.

"But I think with the experience of Favila and myself, we can do so much to improve the stock operation business. We need to work hard to make the stock brokerage industry happy," Lim said.

No salary

Brokers have mixed feelings about a nonbroker chair. One broker, who asked not to be named, said brokers might react adversely if the new chair asked for a fixed remuneration.

Being the chair at the PSE is close to a thankless job because he receives no salary. But like other directors, he gets a per diem of P10,000 per board meeting.

Asked if he would ask for remuneration, Favila said: "I don't know what is at the back of the mind of the shareholders, whether they would want to see a full-time working chair. I would like to think that they will be very fair," he said. "If there's manna from heaven, you just be thankful."

Another broker said that aside from the market being poised to buy bargain stocks this week after heavy selling last week, investors might consider the end of bitter politicking at the PSE a favorable development.

Fair trading

Favila's predecessor, Arroyo, said the "important thing is for brokers to have fair trading practices and issuers to have a level playing field and both Peter (Favila) and Francis (Lim) are capable of ensuring that the exchange is equipped to do so."

She said Favila and Lim would continue to listen to all stakeholders and "will try to be flexible without compromising integrity."

Arroyo, wife of Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo and sister-in-law of President Macapagal-Arroyo, ended her two-year stint as chair yesterday. She will continue to be a PSE director.

Aside from getting elected as chair, Favila will be serving his fourth term as an independent director of the PSE. He has been a director since 2002.

3 Bb. Pilipinas crowned

BEAUTIES ALL, from left, first runner-up & Miss Tourism Wendy Valdez, Bb. Pilipinas-International Precious Lara Quigaman, Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Gionna Cabrera, Bb. Pilipinas-World Carlene Aguilar and second runner-up Melanie Ediza

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Armin Adina
Inquirer Libre

A NEOPHYTE, a veteran and a second-timer.

Three new queens were crowned during the glittery finals night of the Binibining Pilipinas contest at the Araneta Coliseum on Saturday.

Gionna Cabrera, a pageant rookie, won the Binibining Pilipinas-Universe title. The 22-year-old graduate of Integrated Marketing and Communications from the University of Asia and the Pacific also went home with three special awards—Miss Photogenic, Best in Swimsuit and Best in Evening Gown.

The Binibining Pilipinas-World crown went to Carlene Aguilar, who was also proclaimed Miss Philippine Airlines and Binibining Avon. Aguilar was the first woman to win the Miss Earth Philippines crown in 2001 and landed in the semis of the Miss Earth pageant. She represented the city of Manila in the Miss Chinese International 2003 contest in Hong Kong where she placed third.

.In 2001, Precious Lara Quigaman was one of the favorites in the Binibining Pilipinas contest that year but she went home empty-handed. This year, she was crowned Binibining Pilipinas-International. Quigaman said that after her first participation, she "grew more mature, did a lot of things and met a lot of people."

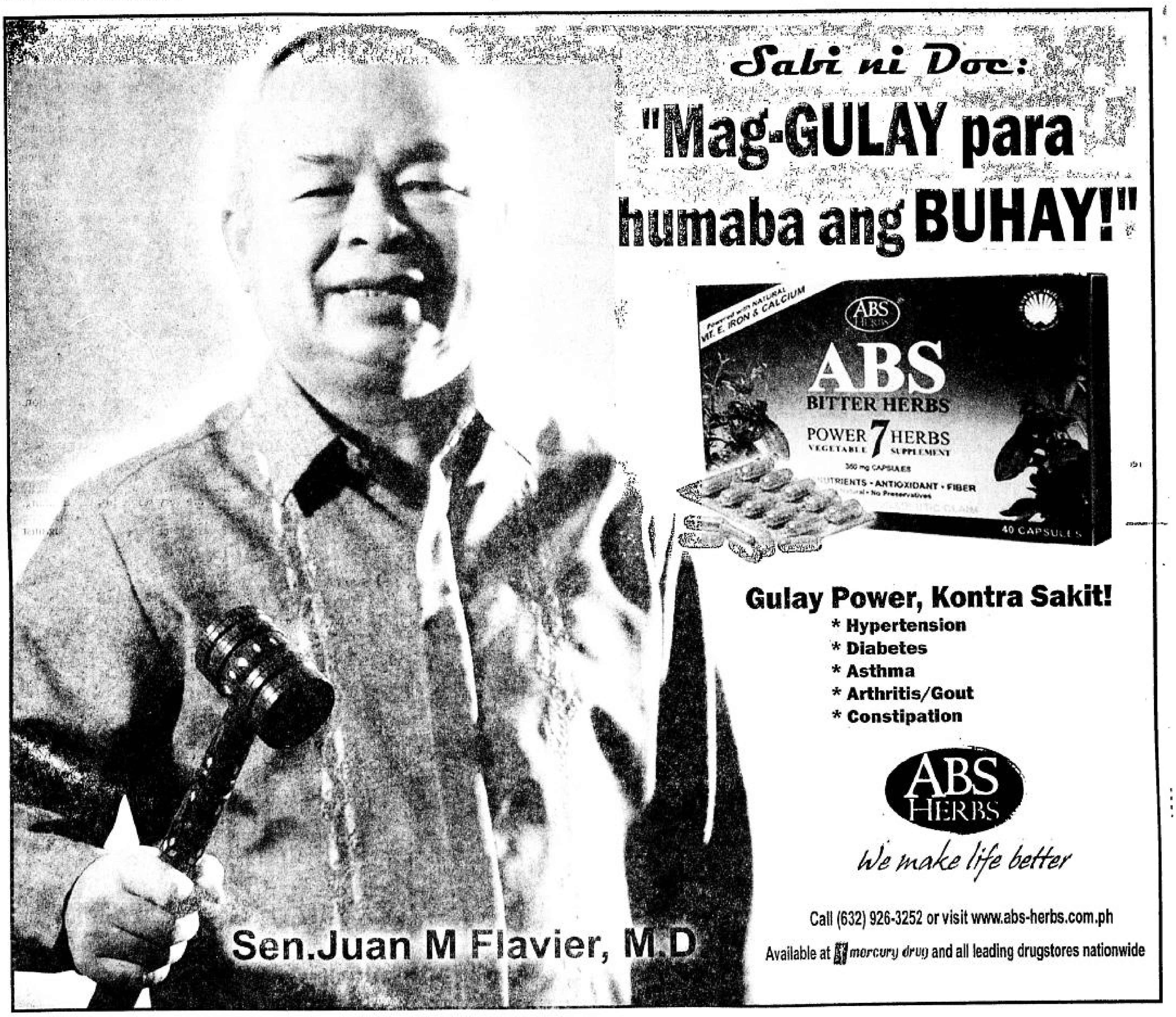
The three bested 20 other women for the right to represent the country in the Miss Universe pageant in Thailand this May, and the Miss World and Miss International contests later this year.

Instead of the usual 10, the pageant this year had 11 semifinalists, with the extra candidate making it by virtue of having garnered the most votes cast by SMS (short messaging service) or text. Candidate No. 3 Ricamarie Ann Taylor was the lucky girl that night. She also bagged another popularity-based title: Miss Readers' Choice.

Asked by the judges during the interview portion: "What is the most important social issue facing women today," Cabrera replied, "How women's rights are being trampled upon and the existing chauvinism in society. They are violated." She cited the Taliban regime in Afghanistan as an example. Her answer drew loud applause from the audience.

Wendy Valdez was proclaimed first runner-up and bagged the special title Binibining Pilipinas-Tourism which was given by the Department of Tourism. Miss Cebu 2002 Melanie Ediza was second runner-up.

Gomez shared hosting chores with Paolo Bediones and Raymond Gutierrez.



Sabi ni Doc:
"Mag-GULAY para humaba ang BUHAY!"

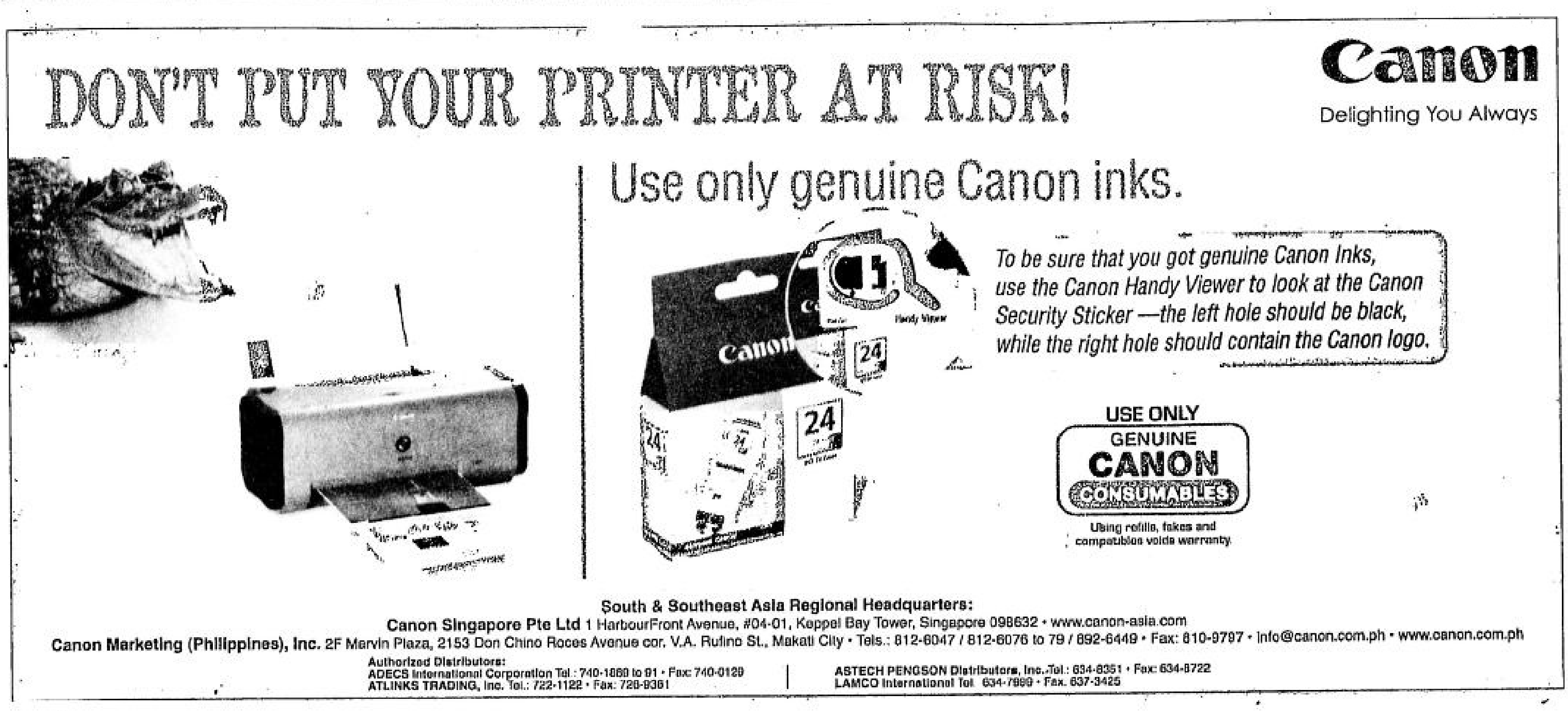
ABS HERBS
Powered with NATURAL VIT. E, IRON & CALCIUM
ABS BITTER HERBS
POWER 7 HERBS
VEGETABLE SUPPLEMENT
360 mg CAPSULES
NUTRIENTS • ANTIOXIDANT • FIBER
40 CAPSULES

Gulay Power, Kontra Sakit!
* Hypertension
* Diabetes
* Asthma
* Arthritis/Gout
* Constipation

ABS HERBS
We make life better

Call (632) 926-3252 or visit www.abs-herbs.com.ph
Available at mercury drug and all leading drugstores nationwide

Sen.Juan M Flavier, M.D



DON'T PUT YOUR PRINTER AT RISK!

Canon
Delighting You Always

Use only genuine Canon inks.

To be sure that you got genuine Canon Inks, use the Canon Handy Viewer to look at the Canon Security Sticker —the left hole should be black, while the right hole should contain the Canon logo.

USE ONLY
GENUINE
CANON
CONSUMABLES
Using refills, fakes and compatibles voids warranty.

South & Southeast Asia Regional Headquarters:
Canon Singapore Pte Ltd 1 HarbourFront Avenue, #04-01, Keppel Bay Tower, Singapore 098632 • www.canon-asia.com
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City • Tels.: 812-6047 / 812-6076 to 79 / 892-6449 • Fax: 810-9797 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph
Authorized Distributors:
ADECS International Corporation Tel.: 740-1860 to 91 • Fax: 740-0129
ATLINKS TRADING, Inc. Tel.: 722-1122 • Fax: 726-9361
ASTECH PENGSON Distributors, Inc. Tel.: 634-8351 • Fax: 634-8722
LAMCO International Tel. 634-7869 • Fax. 637-3425

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Blast at Pakistan Muslim shrine kills 39

QUETTA, Pakistan—Police said Sunday they were investigating if a suicide bomber had detonated a powerful bomb that killed 39 devotees at a Muslim shrine in southwestern Pakistan.

The bomb exploded during a memorial to a Sufi saint late Saturday in the remote town of Fatahpur, 300 kilometres from Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province, as worshippers ate their evening meal.

"The death toll has risen to 39 and 16 people are injured, some seriously," director of rural police Akbar Lasi told AFP Sunday.

"Investigators have reached the site of the blast and are collecting evidence," Baluchistan police chief Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqub told AFP.

"We are trying to ascertain whether it was a suicide bombing, because body of a man close to the blast site had been ripped into small pieces," Yaqub said.

He said the blast was caused by a home-made explosive device detonated by a timer.

Officials said no one had claimed responsibility for the attack, which happened at around 10:30 p.m.

It could have been related to sectarian violence plaguing Pakistan's Muslim community or be the work of renegade tribesmen waging a bloody struggle for more jobs, Yaqub said.

It could also have been targeted at the custodian of the shrine, Sadiq Ali Shah, who escaped unhurt, he said.

Shah has been in a dispute with relatives over the custody of the shrine and last year also survived an assassination attempt, Yaqub said.

The blast occurred as between 10,000 and 20,000 people had gathered for an annual pilgrimage at the shrine of saint Cheesal Shah, said Syed Kamil Shah, the brother of the shrine's custodian.

As well as devotees of Sufism—a semi-mystical branch of Islam that believes music, dance and song are ways of reaching God—followers of the rival Sunni and Shiite sects were at the site with a number of Hindus, Shah said.

Many of them had only just sat down to eat when the bomb went off, witnesses said.

"The food was being handed out amongst the devotees when there was a huge, loud blast," pilgrim Mohammad Midhal told AFP.

"Everyone was wailing, they were covered in blood, staggering around and lifting up people to see if they were injured or even alive.

"It was total chaos because everything was so crowded."

A second, unexploded bomb was found near the shrine shortly after the first device detonated, Mohammad Amin Umrani, the mayor of neighboring Naseerabad, told AFP. It was removed safely.

Religious violence in Pakistan has claimed around 4,000 lives in the past decade, although most of the 80 percent Sunnis and 20 percent Shiites making up the Islamic republic's 150 million population coexist peacefully.

Last year was particularly bloody, with an attack on a Shiite parade in Quetta in March leaving 48 people dead.

Tensions are also high in Baluchistan province because tribesmen want more royalties and jobs from the province's natural resources. Fierce gun battles between tribesmen and soldiers there on Thursday left at least 30 dead and 70 injured. *AFP*

Arab ministers agree to relaunch offer of normal ties with Israel

ALGIERS—Arab foreign ministers agreed on Saturday to relaunch an offer of normal relations with Israel after spelling out in detail conditions which the Jewish state had repeatedly rejected in the past, ministers said.

Jordan had tried to simplify the offer, enshrined in an Arab peace initiative agreed in Beirut in 2002, to make it more appealing to public opinion in Israel and the rest of the world.

But other foreign ministers, meeting to prepare for an Arab summit in Algiers next week, dug in their heels and insisted that the offer make clear that normal ties depended on Israeli steps including withdrawal from land occupied since 1967.

"It was adopted without exception by all the ministers and it will be sent to the summit for approval," Jordanian Foreign Minister Hani al-Mulki told reporters.

He was referring to an amended version of a Jordanian resolution which says that the Arabs consider peace a "strategic option" and will open relations with the Jewish state after a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Arab leaders, at their 2002 summit, offered Israel normal relations if it withdrew from the territory it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war and let the Palestinians set up a state with Jerusalem as its capital. Israel rejected the offer.

The Algerian and Egyptian ministers, Abdelaziz Belkhadem and Ahmed Aboul Gheit, confirmed the decision.

"The Jordanian resolution was redrafted in a way that repeats the substance of the peace initiative of Beirut (and) in a way that promotes it to the world," Belkhadem said.

"This is not a free declaration, without Israel fulfilling the demands which came in Beirut," he added.

Mulki said earlier the aim of the Jordanian proposal was "to take advantage of the current circumstances in the region to convey the desire of the Arab world for peace."

It follows progress in relations between Israel and its neighbors. The Palestinians have declared a truce, while Egypt and Jordan have sent back ambassadors after a four-year gap. *Reuters*

MELVIC TRAVEL & TOURS INC. 3F FC BUILDING 288 T. MORATO QUEZON CITY
www.melvictravel.com

PROMOTION ROUND TRIP AIR TICKET

PARIS	$905 TG	LONDON	$880 TG
HONGKONG	$252 CX	BANGKOK	$185 TG
SINGAPORE	$295 PR	LOS ANGELES	$790 JL
SAN FRANCISCO	$790 JL	NEW YORK	$930 CO
TORONTO	$998 CX	SYDNEY	$648 PR
TOKYO	$555 JL	TAIPEI	$330 BR

SPECIAL PACKAGES

CANTON	$128 2N	PALAU	$449 3N
CHANGMAI	$389 3N	GUAM	$359 2N
SHENZHEN	$228 2N	SAIPAN	$350 2N
BEIJING	$398 5N	SHANGHAI	$328 4N
BALI	$395 3N	KUALA LUMPUR	$335 2N
HONGKONG	$198 3N	PATTAYA	$299 3N

SAGADA SUMMER ESCAPE P3999
BANAUE/BATAD P5999
BORACAY WEEKEND CRUISE (29 APR-01 MAY) P5999

AIR TICKETS, PACKAGE, HOTEL, TOUR, VISA, INSURANCE

HOTLINES: 415-2007/415-2003/ 413-5995/415-2005/415-2006
FAX NO.: 415-2009 CELLPHONE NO.: 0916-6015620

idac®
AIRCONDITION
Split Type Aircon
The aircon that creates cool & quiet environment.
1hp P16,500
1.5hp P18,500 2hp P25,000
Free Installation!
Call 8866696/7880221
Available at MC Home Depot -Makati, Fort Bonifacio & Ortigas

HONG KONG
Budget Packages

3D2N Shenzhen + Hong Kong	US$ 148
1N Hong Kong + 1N Shenzhen	US$ 158
1N Hong Kong + 2N Shenzhen	US$ 168
2N Hong Kong + 1N Shenzhen	US$ 168
3D2N Shenzhen Free & Easy	US$ 218
5D4N Pearl River Delta	US$ 238
4D3N Hong Kong Free & Easy	US$ 298
6D5N Shenzhen + Guilin	US$ 278
5D4N Shenzhen + Shanghai	US$ 328
6D5N Shenzhen + Beijing	US$ 398
8D7N Beijing + Shanghai	US$ 448

Image Travel & Tours Corporation
Unit 101, Lobby Level, Manila Pavilion
Hotel / U.N. Ave., Ermita, Manila 1000
Tel. Nos.: 404-0356 • 404-0357 • 404-0358 •
523-4226 • 523-5830 • 523-6201 • 404-2176
Fax No.: 525-1499 Email: image@mindgate.net
D.O.T. Accreditation No. TO-076-2002

HONEY HOLIDAYS

- 4D HKG+SHENZHEN Dep: April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 $168
- 5D HKG+SHENZHEN Dep: April 6, 13, 20, 27 $200
- 5D HKG/SHENZHEN/ ZHUHAI/MACAU Dep: April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 $288
- 7D HKG/SHENZHEN (with Windows of the World) ZHUHAI/MACAU+CANTON (w Panyu Safari) FULLBOARD except in HKG Dep Apr 6, 13, 20, 27 $299
- 4D BANGKOK Dep April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 $179
- 6D BANGKOK+PATTAYA FULLBOARD Dep Mar 25 & 29/April 7, 14, 21 & 28 $258
- 6D BANGKOK+CHANGMAI+CHIANGRAI FULLBOARD Dep April 7, 14, 21, 28 $399
- 6D ANGKOR WAT+BANGKOK FULLBOARD Dep March 28 & 31 / April 7, 14, 21, 28 $456
- 6D BANGKOK+SINGAPORE (Free & Easy) Dep April 5, 12, 19 & 26 $399
- 4D SINGAPORE + MALAYSIA FULLBOARD Dep April 7, 14, 21, 28 $339
- 4D SINGAPORE (Free & Easy) Dep April 7, 14, 21 & 28 $258
- 5D KUALA LUMPUR+GENTING FULLBOARD Dep April 6, 13, 20 & 27 $488
- 6D BEIJING+SHANGHAI Dep April [illegible] & 26 $339
- 8D BEIJING+SHANGHAI FULLBOARD Dep April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 $399
- 8D VIETNAM (Hanoi+Halong Bay)+GUILIN FULLBOARD Dep: April 2, 9, & 16 $567
- 6D XIAN+BEIJING Dep.: April 5, 12 & 19 $388
- 8D XIAN+BEIJING+SHANGHAI FULLBOARD Dep April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 $558
- 8D SHANGHAI+JIUZHAIGOU+CHENGDU FULLBOARD Dep April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 $499
- 11D SYDNEY+MELBOURNE+CANBERRA +BLUE MOUNTAIN+KUALA LUMPUR $1,380 4 STAR HOTEL FULLBOARD Dep April 20 & May 18
- 13D NEW YORK+PHILADELPHIA+WASH.DC +NIAGARA FALLS+KUALA LUMPUR $1,680 4 STAR HOTEL Dep. March 23, April 20 & May 11
- 8D JAPAN (FUJI MT.+DISNEY SEA+OSAKA+UNIVERSAL STUDIOS+KYOTO+NAGOYA+AICHI EXPO '05 $1,780 4 STAR HOTEL FULLBOARD Dep March 23, April 13 & May 18

•MAKATI: 892-8831 to 30/892-4704 to 06/892-4472 •BINONDO: 247-1456 to 57 •Q.C.: 434-3879 / 924-1957 •STA. CRUZ 783-4354 / 711-8778 •JUAN LUNA: 243-8383 to 84 •SAN JUAN: 722-6516 / 700-2614 •SAMPALOC: 740-3687 / 416-5371 •CEBU: 231-8503 / 231-8935 •BACOLOD: 434-7244/709-0291 •DAVAO: 300-9260/300-9268 •DUMAGUETE: 2253014 / 225-7280 •Rosa Ang: 0917-5266838 •Lorie: 0917-5270158

Clark+Kuala Lumpur+Clark all in P3,898
Clark+Kota Kinabalu+Clark all in P3,598

KL+Genting+Sunway Lagoon via AK 4D/3N $268	Kuala Lumpur+Genting Highlands via MH 4D/3N $279
Sutera Harbour 5* Resort & Spa Kota Kinabalu via AK 4D/3N $254	Kuala Lumpur+Singapore via MH 5D/4N $368
Kuala Lumpur+Genting+Singapore via MH 6D/5N $398	Singapore+Brunei via BI 5D/4N $330
Kuala Lumpur+Genting Highlands+Brunei via BI 5D/4N $349	Singapore+Malaysia+Indonesia+Brunei via BI 5D/4N $366
Singapore+Kuala Lumpur+Brunei via BI 5D/4N $378	Kuala Lumpur+Genting+Singapore+Brunei via BI 5D/4N $433
2D/1N Boracay P3,688	3D/2N Palawan P10,113

OTHER PACKAGES AND INTERNATIONAL TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE
SUBIC ADVENTURE
2D/1N Forest Adventure • Ocean Adventure Duty Free Shopping P4,000
WINTREX TRAVEL CORP.
www.philtours.com
2/F, OM Bldg., Visayas cor. Congressional Aves., QC
9257092 • 4264492/93 • 4548528/62 Fax 456-6145
PTAA 0917-8394948 • 0917-3285776

HAVE A SMASHING SUMMER!
Study at
VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS
and THE WRITING INSTITUTE
BIG DISCOUNT PACKAGES

- SCB The Success & Confidence Building Program
- CP1 On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development
- CP2 On Grammar & Conversational English
- CP3 On Public Speaking & Leadership Training
- WP1 On Business & Technical Writing
- WP2 On Feature & Creative Writing
- JCP On Speech, Grammar, Public Speaking, Confidence Bldg., Personality Dev't.,

+ Reading and Comprehension for kids

PRIVATE TUTORING & CORPORATE TRAINING ARE AVAILABLE
MAKATI - 892-9502 / 892-9503 ALABANG - 845-0886

TRUSTED ALL OVER THE WORLD
Pulmo-Aide Compact Compressor and Nebulizer
from
DEVILBISS® U.S.A
5-YEAR WARRANTY
Pulmo-aide 3655 P Compact Compressor
Pulmo-Aide 5650 P (Heavy Duty)
Relief that lasts!
Accessories:
- Pediatric Aerosol Mask
- Disposable Nebulizer Kit
- Air Filter
- Carrying bag (Compact Compressor)

Effective, Reliable, Affordable
for ASTHMA & other Respiratory Disorders
medical center trading corporation

Pasig City	Manila City	Cebu City	Davao City	Iloilo City	Lipa City	Pampanga	Pangasinan
(02)	(02)	(032)	(082)	(033)	(043)	(045)	(075)
631-1715	711-8374	234-3367	222-4404	320-1413	757-3051	961-7892	568-7390

Available at all mercury drug Branches Nationwide

Travel SAFE, Travel SURE, Travel with US...
FREE TRAVEL INSURANCE AND VISA PROCESSING!!!
$699 5Days/4Nights SEE SHOOTING PLACES OF "FULL HOUSE AND STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN"
AQUAWORLD/ SUANBO/LOTTE WORLD/EVERLAND/ SEOUL/ KOREAN TELE-NOVELA SHOOTING PLACES

DEP. DATE: APRIL 13-17
DEP. DATE: APRIL 27 - MAY 1

DAY01(27 APR) MANILA / INCHEON (-/-/D) ARRIVAL INCHEON AIRPORT, MEET AND GREET BY THE FRIENDLY TOUR GUIDE THEN TRANSFER TO INCHEON, AFTER DINNER, HOTEL CHECK IN.
DAY02(28 APR) INCHEON / MUEUI ISLAND / EVERLAND / SUANBO (B/L/D) AFTER BREAKFAST, VISIT TO MUEUI ISLAND(DRAMA SHOOTING PLACE)SEE THE SHOOTING PLACES OF "STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN", TRANSFER TO EVERLAND WITH BIG STKTS.THE LARGEST OUTDOOR THEME PARK OF SEOUL. TRANSFER TO SUANBO, HOTEL CHECK IN
DAY03(29 APR) SUANBO / SEOUL (B/L/D) AFTER BREAKFAST, ENJOY AQUA WORLD WATERTHEME PARK AT DAEMYUNG RESORT, VISIT TO CHUNGJU LAKE HAVE A RIVER CRUISE, BACK TO SEOUL, SHOPPING AT DONGDAEMUN MARKET, AFTER DINNER TRY YOUR LUCK AT WALKERHILL CASINO AND HOTEL CHECK IN
DAY04(30 APR) SEOUL CITY TOUR (B/L/D) AFTER BREAKFAST, HAVE A VIEW OF THE SEOUL CITY VISIT THE KYONGBOK PALACE, FOLK MUSEUM, BLUE HOUSE, THEN VISIT THE DUTY FREE GINSENG CENTER, AMETHYST FACTORY, LOTTE WORLD WITH BIG STKTS. THE LARGEST OUTDOOR THEME PARK HOTEL CHECK IN
DAY05(01 MAY) SEOUL / MANILA (B/L/-) AFTER B'FAST, OLYMPIC STADIUM, FREE TIME AT ITAEWON STREET, APGUJEONG FASHION STREET(SHOOTING PLACE), & MYONGDONG STREET, STOP BY KOREAN SOUVENIR AND FOOD MARKET, THEN TRANSFER TO ICN AIRPORT FOR DEPARTURE. HOME SWEET HOME!

INCLUSIONS: RT AIRFARE VIA PHILIPPINE AIRLINES / HOTEL ACCOM / FULLBOARD MEALS /DAILY. TOURS AND. TRANSFERS/ENGLISH SPEAKING GUIDE/ALL ADMISSIONS

$419 4D/3N SAIGON
DEP. DATE:APRIL 28-MAY 1
HO CHI MINH/CUCHI TUNNEL/ MEKONG DELTA

FARES

SEOUL	$380
BANGKOK	$195
HONGKONG	$300
SINGAPORE	$293
SAIGON	$250
SFO/LAX	$945
TOKYO	$430
SYD/MEL	$630
GUAM	$500
HONOLULU	$900
VANCOUVER	$1005
JAKARTA	$395
BRISBANE	$670
AUCKLAND	$720

RAKSO AIR TRAVEL & TOURS INC.
G/F All Seasons Bldg., 112 Aguirre St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 812-9667; 840-2681; 812-9509Fax No. 8402484; 812-8035
E-mail address: rakso@mozcom.com; ling_rakso@yahoo.com
IATA PTAA

China Panorama
華夏博覽

B1	Beijing 4 Days
H1	Shanghai 4 Days
C1B6	Beijing, Shanghai 6 Days
C1A	Beijing, Xian, Guilin 6 - 8 Days
C1B	Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Guilin 6 - 9 Days
C1C	Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Guilin 6 - 10 Days
C2	Hangzhou, Shanghai, Beijing, Xian, Guilin 7 - 11 Days

A Yantze River Cruises Tour 5 Days w/ Extention 5 - 12 Days
D Pilgrim Series Mount Putuo 4 Days w/ Extention 4 - 11 Days
Silk Road, Inner-Mongolia, Tibet, JiuZhaiGou National Park, Zhang Jia Jie National Forest Park, Central China Cultural Tours, Southwest Scenic Area (Shangri-la), and more.....
* Accept hotel and air ticket booking throughout China.
For more details pls. contact your nearest travel agency or ...
PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC.
479 - 481 Sto. Cristo Street, Binondo, Manila
Tels : 242-2585 Trunk line Fax : 242-2650 : 242-2662
PTAA IATA DOT163-00 Http://www.pandatour.com

SUMMER ESCAPADE

ROUTINGS	Oneway	Roundtrip	BORACAY	PACKAGES
Hongkong	$100	$208	VISIT ALICE	$188
Singapore	$220	[illegible]	IN	(HONGKONG)
Bangkok	$180	$258	WONDERLAND	$190
Macau	$150	$270	P 2, 640.00	(BANGKOK)
Tokyo	$190	$350		$290
Fukuoka	$190	$350	OTHER SERVICES	(SINGAPORE)
Nagoya	$190	$350		$322
Osaka	$230	$385	PASSPORTING	(KUALA
Saigon	$195	$370	P 999.00	LUMPUR)
Seoul	$200	$410		$332
Kuala lumpur	$220	$390	RUSH BIRTH CERT.	(SAIGON)
Jakarta	$260	$370	AND	$188
Xiamen	$160	$285	MARRIAGE	(GUAM)
Shanghai	$300	$410	CONTRACT	
Los Angeles	$380	[illegible]	" FLY NOW	* DOMESTIC
Vancouver	$380	$890	PAY	TICKETS*
New York	$460	$930	LATER PLAN"	

T & J Travel and Tours
Sales Office : G/F Pan Pacific Hotel Adriatico cor. Gen. Malvar St. Malate Manila
Tel : 536-06-03 / 521-57-02 Telefax: 524-06-97
Main Office Tel : 781-21-69/ 781-21-70/781-21-72
PTAA Telefax:781-14-82

SHENZHEN • HONGKONG 3D/2N USD178 | 3D/2N USD188 | 4D/3N USD198 DAILY DEPARTURES
SHENZHEN Free & Easy USD228 3D/2N DAILY DEPARTURES
SHENZHEN • SHANGHAI 5D/4N USD328 DEPARTURES: TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS
PEARL RIVER DELTA 5D/4N USD238 DEPARTURE TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
SHENZHEN • GUILIN 6D/5N USD278 DEPARTURES: THURSDAYS
SHENZHEN SHANGHAI BEIJING 8D/7N USD448
SHENZHEN • BEIJING 6D/5N USD398 DEPARTURES: THURSDAYS
CANTON SHENZHEN HONGKONG 3D/2N USD128 USD138 DEPARTURE DATES MARCH 18 & 25
Magellan World Travel
TELS: [illegible]-4809 to 11 • 520-5060 • 528-5057 FAX No.: 526-5658
[illegible]a Global Travel & Tour Angeles City TEL. NOS.: (045) 526 1003 (045) 887 5184 (045) 887 5062
Canua Travel Dagupan City TEL. NOS.: (075) 522 5689 (0920) 927 8543

TO ALL MOTORISTS
NO MORE FLAT TIRES !!!!
NO MORE VULCANIZING !!!!
WORLD'S #1
DRIVE SAFE
C-LANT
* FEEL SAFE * SECURED &
* CONFIDENT while driving.
- Absolutely no tire deflation when a puncture occurs thus allowing you to an uninterrupted journey to your destination.
For particulars, Ask LOUIE or BRENDA
C-LANT TRADING
7252 J. VICTOR ST. BRGY. PIO DEL PILAR, MAKATI CITY
TEL : 759 3007 / 759 3008
PROVINCIAL DISTRIBUTORS ARE WELCOME ON FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS.

Qatar theater blast kills Briton, hurts 12

DOHA—A shocked Qatar on Sunday investigated a car bombing which killed a Briton and wounded 12 people near a British school in the capital Doha, amid fears the gas-rich state has become a target for militant attacks.

The blast, which went off late Saturday at the entrance to a theater affiliated to the Doha English-Speaking School while dozens of people were watching a play, was caused by a car bomb, the interior ministry said.

It was the first time the country, home to the US Central Command and the operational base for the US-led war on Iraq in 2003, has been the site of an attack against a Western interests.

The Doha-based Al-Jazeera satellite news channel quoted the ministry as saying that the car was registered to an Egyptian national who has not been heard of since he left his home Saturday morning.

Saturday's blast, exactly two years after the launch of the US invasion of Iraq, came as neighboring Saudi Arabia continues to battle a wave of terror blamed on al-Qaida sympathizers which has left over 220 people dead since May 2003.

Kuwait, another US ally in the Gulf, has been rocked by gun battles involving Islamist militants believed linked to counterparts in Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

The blast sparked a blaze that partially destroyed the theater building and set several nearby cars on fire, Al-Jazeera reported.

The Foreign Office in London said the dead man was a British national. Interior ministry spokesperson Brig. Ahmad al-Hayki said the 12 wounded included one British national while the rest were Qataris, Arabs and Asians.

Al-Jazeera aired footage showing fires from the blast, which it said occurred while "dozens of people, mostly foreigners," were attending a play.

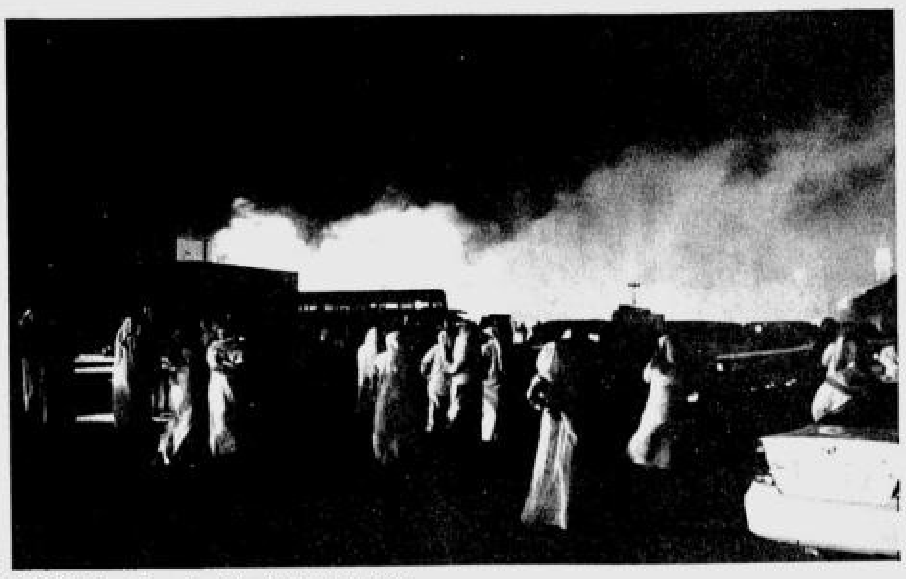
A British Embassy source told AFP the mission had closed the two British schools in the Qatari capital for an unspecified period and advised British citizens here to observe caution.

Western embassies were planning to get together to discuss "appropriate" security measures to take for the citizens and firms of their respective countries.

The blast occurred in an area where the US Embassy used to be located before the mission moved to new premises. Hayki declined to pinpoint any suspects in the incident.

But concerns that violence was spreading in the Gulf region grew earlier this year following a series of gun battles in Kuwait between security forces and suspected Islamist militants in January.

Kuwait has said the men belong to a group linked to al-Qaida and other militant groups in Iraq and Saudi Arabia and which was plotting attacks against US troops and Western civilians in the emirate. *AFP*



SMOKE rises from the site of a bomb blast in Doha command center for the US-led invasion of Iraq which began two years ago. REUTERS

Jewish settlements continue expansion, aerial photos show

JERUSALEM—An extensive aerial photography operation carried out for Israel's Defense Ministry has revealed considerable new building in Jewish settlements in the West Bank, an Israeli newspaper reported Sunday, an apparent violation of Israeli obligations under a US-backed Middle East peace plan.

Expansion of Israeli settlements runs counter to the "road map" peace plan, which calls for a complete freeze on settlement construction, including that resulting from natural population growth. Israel and the Palestinians accepted the plan in 2003 but its implementation has stalled amid violations by the sides.

The Haaretz newspaper said the photography operation, completed in recent weeks, included all the Israeli settlements and authorized settlement outposts in the West Bank.

It said that between the summer of 2004 and early 2005 the photographs showed there had been major settlement construction, including in the large settlements of Maale Adumim, Ariel and the Gush Etzion bloc.

A spokesperson for the US Embassy in Tel Aviv said the United States expected Israel to abide by its road map commitments.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has stated that he intends to keep Maale Adumim, Ariel and the Gush Etzion bloc in any final agreement. They are home to an estimated 80 percent of the 220,000 Israeli settlers living among 2.1 million Palestinians in the West Bank.

Palestinians say continued Israeli control over those areas would make it impossible for them to form a viable, contiguous state.

Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat condemned the reported settlement expansion.

"Any settlement continuation at a faster pace puts our effort to revive the peace process into danger," he said. "Everywhere we go in the West Bank we see settlement construction that undermines all the efforts being exerted to revive the hope in the minds of Palestinians that the peace is durable."

A spokesperson for Israel Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz had no immediate comment on the Haaretz report.

The report said Mofaz had ordered the photography operation following a complaint by former chief state prosecutor Talia Sasson that without detailed aerial photographs she would have difficulty completing a report on unauthorized Jewish settlement outposts in the West Bank.

Sasson's report was published earlier this month. It said Israeli governments have helped build and expand 105 illegal West Bank settlement outposts in a flagrant violation of official policy and promises to the United States—confirming long-standing complaints by the Palestinians.

Despite American sponsorship of the "road map," President George W. Bush recognized Israel's right to hold on to Jewish population centers in the West Bank in 2004. Since then the administration has failed to condemn several instances of Jewish building activity in the settlements, including an Israeli tender for the construction of 1,800 new housing units there. *AP*

Brand New. Good Location. Good View
BAGUIO VACATION APTS
P2,500/day 2BR 5 Beds
P3,500/day 3BR 10 Beds
Annual rates available
Extra Beds/ cooking Allowed Spacious Garden for Jogging/Biking. Foggy . Beautiful Sunset View. Clubhouse w meeting rooms & Fireplace
Pines Garden Villas Subd.
Asin Road, Baguio Circumferential Road
09189395629. 09189403711.0744455546. 8522466

Not enough funds for the family vacation?
Fly Now, Pay Later!
Let's talk. Call or better yet, visit us.
PMC Finance & Investment Corporation
G/F Consolidated Mansions Condominium, 5420 South Superhighway, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 887-3661, 887-1765
887-1493, 843-6197
Fax: 843-1170
PTAA PHILTOA

BEST
Quality. Variety. Affordability. After-Sales Service.
Car Washer/ Multi-Purpose Cleaner
Commando 707
• 100 BAR/1500 PSI • 2.5 HP
P3,900 ONE SET
FREE DELIVERY within Metro Manila
With AFTER SALES SERVICE
Major Credit Cards Accepted (Additional 7% Interest). Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Exclusively Distributed by:
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MAIN OFFICE: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY BRANCH 646 QUEZON AVE. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

traveling in appreciation of GOD's beautiful & bountiful creations
EUROPE SIGHTSEEING & PILGRIMAGE TOUR
APR 26 • US$ 2,985
Highlights: PARIS - NEVERS - PARAYLE MONIAL - LOURDES - ZARAGOZA - BARCELONA - MONSERRAT - MONTE CARLO - NICE - VERONA - PADUA - VENICE - ASSISSI - ROME
HOLYLAND, JORDAN & EGYPT
APR 25 • US$ 1,598
Highlights: AMMAN - PETRA - MT. TABOR - CANA - NAZARETH - MT. CARMEL - GALILEE - TIBERIAS - QUMRAN - DEAD SEA - JERUSALEM - MT. SINAI - CAIRO
US WEST COAST TOUR
8 Days $1,640 • 11 Days $1,890
Highlights: LOS ANGELES - UNIVERSAL STUDIOS - DISNEYLAND - SAN DIEGO SEA WORLD - TIJUANA - LAKE HAVASU - GRAND CANYON - HOOVER DAM - LAS VEGAS - BARSTOW - HEARST CASTLE - FRESNO - YOSEMITE PARK - SAN FRANCISCO
Sydney $ 579
Sydney & Goldcoast $ 759
Auckland $1,079
Auckland/Christchurch $1,132
2N Guam $ 336
PIRKKO & TROYTOURS, INC. Unit 210 City & Land Mega Plaza (2nd flr. Parking Level) ADB Ave. cor. Garnet St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tels.: 688-8846 • 688-8658 • 687-2694 Fax: 688-8846 E-mail: pirkkotroy@yahoo.com

HAPPIEST PLACE FOR HOLYWEEK!
DAY TOURS
TAGAYTAY ESCAPADES P99-299 PER PAX
CLARK WATER EXPLORE P290 PER PAX
ZOOBIC SAFARI ADVENTURE P395-695 PER PAX
TAAL-TREK P499 PER PAX; MIN. OF 7
ZOOBIC-GRANDE ISLAND TOUR P999 PER PAX; MIN. OF 5
•SAN BENITO FARM •SPLASH MT. RESORT •CALIRAYA •PAGSANJAN P900 PER PAX; MIN. OF 4
CLARK-ZOOBIC ESCAPADE
☑ Accomdt'n @ Blu Bianco
☑ Zoobic Safari Tour
☑ Duty Free Shopping
☑ Swimming @ Officers Club
P1,690 PER PAX; MIN. OF 2
CALL: 898-3695; 899-9819; 895-7142; 899-9824; TXT:0917-8351111;
TAGAYTAY: (046)413-1244; CLARK: (045)599-3956; SUBIC: (047)252-2272;
VISIT: www.residenceinnresorts.com/www.zoobic.com

TAGAYTAY EXECUTIVE VILLAGE
A minute drive to ROTUNDA / at the back of McDONALDS and OLIVAREZ PLAZA
Own a lot for as low as P11,528/mo.
*NO DOWN PAYMENT SCHEME also available
HLURB License to Sell No.: Phase 1:05609-R4-02-09 / Phase 2: 07266-R4A-03-04
LEADING CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPER (Presidential Awardee)
CITYLAND
812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888 • 241-1894 • (0919) 310-8553
www.cityland.net • investment@cityland.net

KAY SARAP UMUWI SA SARILING BAHAY
54 pesos* lang kada araw ! LIPAT AGAD !!! (AS IS, WHERE IS)
* as low as
. . . abot-kamay, pangarap mong bahay.
✓ Maraming pagpipiliang lugar. Novaliches, Bulacan, Rizal at Cavite.
✓ Abot-kayang downpayment para makalipat
✓ Mababang interes, 10 taong hulugan, fixed monthly amortization
✓ SHOW MONEY: 10,000 pesos (cash only)
Pumunta sa:
Casa Regalia HOUSING BARATILLO
4th Floor (right side of Puyat Sports)
STARMALL Complex EDSA (dating Manuela)
for INFO. PLS. CALL: 724-2252 or 724-1863

Island Caravan
ISLAND QUEST
The Nautical Highway Adventure
April 1 - 5, 2005
Manila → Batangas → Puerto Galera → Calapan → Roxas → Caticlan → Boracay
CARAVAN RATES:
Aircon Room Based on Twin Sharing - P13,000/person
Fan Room Based on Twin Sharing - P10,500/person
Campsite - P8,900/person
INCLUSIONS: 4 nights / 5 days accommodations • Meals
Transportation: Manila/Batangas (aircon van), Batangas/Puerto Galera (RORO), Puerto Galera/Calapan/ Roxas (aircon van), Caticlan/ Manila (aircon public bus+ RORO) • Activities & sightseeing tours
TROPICAL JEWELS
The Visayan Charm
April 8 - 12, 2005
Cebu → Bohol → Dumaguete → Siquijor
CARAVAN RATES:
Aircon Room Based on Twin Sharing
(From Manila) - P22,188/person • (From Cebu) - P12,660/person
From Manila Inclusions: 4 nights / 5 days accommodations • Meals Roundtrip airfare (Manila-Cebu-Manila) • Ferry rides & land transportation Activities & sightseeing tours
From Cebu Inclusions: 3 nights / 4 days accommodations • Meals Ferry rides & land transportation • Activities & sightseeing tours
See our best beaches and enjoy a range of activities during the peak summer months PRICED LESS!
ISLAND CARAVAN CONSORTIUM
ANNSET HOLIDAYS 400-6521 • 400-6526 F tours.travel@annsetholidays.com.ph
RAJAH TOURS PHILS. 522-0541 to 48 • 521-2831 F sales@rajahtours.com.ph
TRAVEL EDGE 845-2230 • (0917) 847-4560 sales@travel-edge.com
BARON TRAVEL 817-0203 • 817-6594 F inbound@barontravel.com.ph
SAMPAGUITA TRAVEL 817-7620 • 892-1123 F sampagu@compass.com.ph
T. R. I. P. S. TRAVEL 811-4163 • 811-4460 F trips@i-next.net
In cooperation with

INCA BEAT THE WATER SHORTAGE
WATER TANK SALE!!
FACTORY DIRECT (until supplies last)
10-YEARS WARRANTEE!!
STORAGE TANKS
- Virgin Polyethylene material
- Won't rust, break, crack, or chip
- Food Grade and FDA approved for safe & clean storage of water
- Ultra Violet Stabilized for outdoor use
- Complete with polyethylene fittings
- Suitable for corrosive chemical storage
- Ideal for salty water storage
- CASH SALES ONLY.
- FREE delivery within Metro Manila only

AVAILABLE IN THESE SIZES

SIZE	HEIGHT	DIA METER	LIST PRICE	PROMO PRICE
370L	33.5"	30"	P 4,950.00	P 4,200.00
700L	41"	37.5"	P 6,800.00	P 5,600.00
1000L	54.75"	39.75"	P 9,900.00	P 7,700.00
1500L	83.75"	39.75"	P 13,500.00	P 10,100.00
2000L	102"	39.75"	P 16,500.00	P 11,600.00
4200L	93"	87"	P 40,000.00	P 37,600.00

INCA
Telephones : 809-2776 • 809-2745 • 809-2730
Fax No. : 809-1108
Website : http://www.inca.cjb.net
Email : incaphil@edsamail.com.ph
Provincial Toll Free : 1-800-1888-4622
WE ALSO SELL TRASH BINS FOR WASTE SEGREGATION, TRAFFIC CONES, ROAD BARRIERS, PLANTERS, DRUMS, TRAYS, KAYAKS, PONTOONS, SEPTIC TANKS, GREASE TRAPS, PORTAROOMS, ETC.

PABX
Lease to Own yours at P2,000/mo.
3 Tel. lines/8 locals combination to 8 Tel. lines/20 locals combination
EVERTEL 715-8114 411-2100
"Your Business Communication Solution"

voted by readers SUPER BRAND PLATINUM 2004 Reader's Digest Philippines
SUPER BRAND PLATINUM 2004
SUPERBRANDS HALL OF FAME
voted by readers SUPER BRAND GOLD Reader's Digest Philippines
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2003
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2002
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2001
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2000
SUPER BRAND GOLD 1999
PILOT
Smooth Advancement in writing technology
G-2
Retractable BALL POINT PENS
BL-G2-5
BL-G2-7
Philippine Exclusive Distributor:
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. PAREDES ST., BINONDO, MANILA
P.O. BOX 1601 Tels.: 243-6912 to 14 Fax: 242-56
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo, Japan

Iraq conflict enters 3rd year with more insurgent attacks

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Insurgents targeted Iraqi security forces and government buildings with gunfire, suicide bomb attacks and mortar rounds Sunday, leaving at least five people dead—including a top anti-corruption official—as the conflict moved into its third year since the US-led invasion.

In the north, a suicide bomber blew himself up inside a government compound in Mosul, killing himself and Walid Kashmoula, the head of the Iraqi police anti-corruption department, officials said. Three others were injured.

In Baghdad, residents said saboteurs blew up a municipal building in a western neighborhood, reducing the two-story building to rubble. No injuries were reported.

Insurgents kept up their deadly campaign against Iraq's fledgling security force, which is struggling to build its ranks and fight the insurgency and lawlessness that has gripped the country in the two years since the US-led, March 19, 2003, invasion.

Assailants leapt from their vehicle and unleashed gunfire on a policeman walking to work in Samarra, killing the man, said Maj. Sadoun Ahmed, a police official in the Sunni Triangle town 95 kilometers north of Baghdad.

In the southern city of Basra, attackers targeted a police patrol with a roadside bomb, killing one civilian and injuring a policeman, police Col. Karim al-Zeidi said.

Insurgents lobbed mortar fire into a neighborhood just outside the walls of an Iraqi army base in the town of Mahmoudiyah, south of Baghdad, killing one civilian and injuring two others, said Ikbal Sabir, an official at the Yarmouk Hospital where the bodies were taken.

On Saturday, militants killed five police officers on the second anniversary of the US-led invasion of Iraq, as the insurgency pressed on with its tactic of targeting Iraqi security forces, Shiites and Kurds and focusing less on American troops.

The top US general in Iraq, Army Gen. George Casey, said recently that the level of violence against US troops had dropped significantly since the Jan. 30 elections.

That appeared to be the result of a tactical shift by insurgents—made up mostly of Sunni Arabs dominant under ousted dictator Saddam Hussein—to focus violence on majority Shiites and Kurds, two groups persecuted under Saddam's rule.

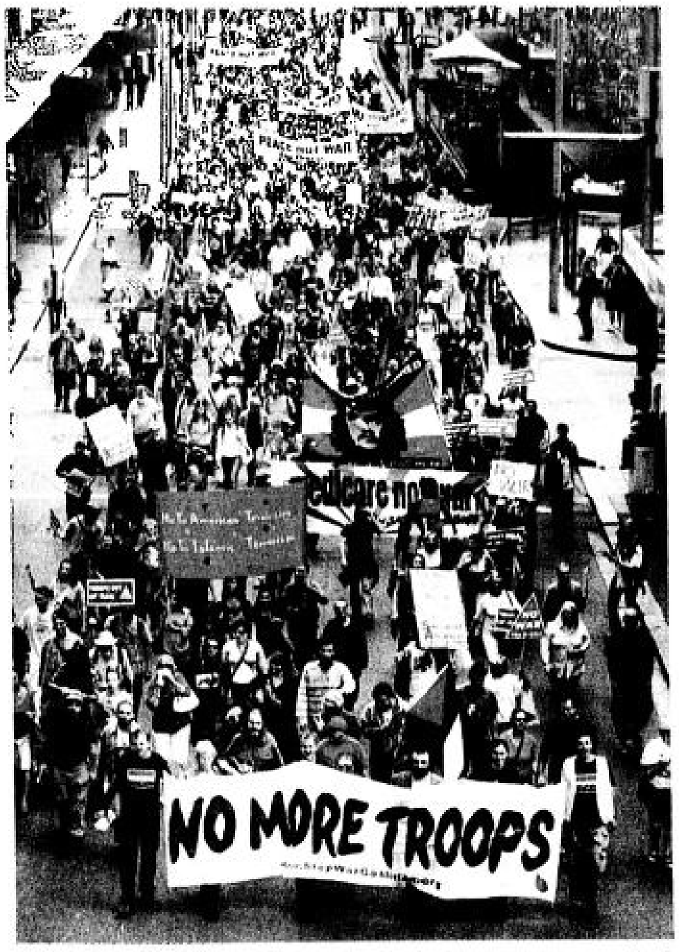
Newly elected Shiite and Kurdish leaders marked Saturday's anniversary of the start of the war with a fresh promise to form a government by the end of the month, when the National Assembly convenes for only the second time—nearly two months after lawmakers were elected.

The 275-member National Assembly, Iraq's first democratically elected legislature in 50 years, was first convened Wednesday.

Shiites make up about 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million people, while Sunni Arabs make up about 20 percent of the population. Kurds, who are Sunni but mostly secular, make up 15 to 20 percent.

Sunni Arabs mostly stayed away from the largely peaceful elections, either because they feared reprisals or because they chose to boycott them.

Around the world, tens of thousands of anti-war protesters marked the war's two-year anniversary with demonstrations. The largest turnout was among residents of America's closest ally in the war—Britain, where 45,000 marched to the US Embassy. *AP*



AROUND the world, tens of thousands of antiwar protesters marked the war's two-year anniversary with demonstrations. REUTERS

Cool off underwater this summer!

SEA SCOOTER DPV
REG PRICE: P19,900
SUMMER PROMO: P15,900

- 6 MONTHS WARRANTY
- PARTS AVAILABLE

For swimming, snorkeling & scuba diving!

- Tested up to 80 ft.
- 3.2 kms/hr speed
- Rechargeable w/ handy carry bag!
- Over 40,000 units sold!

SEA•DOO SCOOTER Dolphin
- Ideal for pool or sea
- Tested to 15 ft.
- 3.2 km./hr.

P12,900

SEA SCOOTER GTI
- Tested to 115 ft.
- 4 kms./hr.
- 1.5 hrs. battery (rechargeable)

Reg. Price : P29,900
Summer Promo : P24,900

BOATING WORLD, INC. 9635 Kamagong St., San Antonio Village, Makati City
Tel. nos.: 897-8771 • 890-4272

The Ultimate in Comfort, Care & Hygiene!

MADE IN GERMANY
HARTMANN

McBride
Disposable Underpads

SUPERIOR PROTECTION FOR:
- Bed Sheets
- Beddings
- Furniture
- Chairs & other surfaces

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM AT MERCURY DRUG STORE
2nd Floor Glorietta 3, Makati

Exclusively Distributed by:
Medical Center Trading Corp.
Pioneer St., Cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Tels. 631-1715; 631-9355; 637-9504
Fax (0632) 631-7869 E-mail Address: medcen@info.com.ph

PANGASINAN (075) 568-7390
CEBU (032) 254-2367
DAVAO (082) 222-4404
MANILA 711-8374
ILOILO (033) 320-1413
PASIG 631-1715
PAMPANGA (045) 961-7892
LIPA (043) 757-2051

Available at mercury drug Stores Nationwide

Filipinas Water

A Flowing Business Opportunity for You!

Filipinas Water Station

Now open for dealership!

- MINIMAL INVESTMENT
Only P15,000 for complete start-up package
- AFFORDABLY PRICED MINERAL WATER
- HEALTHIER MARGINS FOR YOU!
- MARKETING SUPPORT PROVIDED
- PURE MINERAL DRINKING WATER
  - Bottled straight from the source: Palsahingin Falls, Indang, Cavite!
  - BFAD approved
  - Member of IBWA (International Bottled Water Association)

(Actual Photo of Palsahingin Falls, Indang, Cavite)

Filipinas Water is a quality product of

a subsidiary of

SUBWAY passengers get out from a subway train at Tsukiji station in Tokyo, March 20. Japan marked the 10th anniversary of the deadly sarin nerve gas attacks by Aum Shinrikyo cult on the Tokyo subway system. AP

10 years after, Japan still scarred by deadly gas attack on subway

TOKYO—Tokyo rush hour 10 years ago began like any other for ticket inspector Tsutomu Ohmuro, then subway commuters began to choke.

"Passengers were thrown into a panic," said Ohmuro, 40, one of thousands subjected to a sarin nerve gas attack that killed 12 people on jam-packed subways on March 20, 1995, and left over 5,000 sick.

On Sunday, subway workers and victims' relatives observed a moment of silence at 8 a.m.—about the time of the attacks by members of a doomsday cult.

The incident shattered Japan's sense of public safety as investigators discovered that Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth Sect) cult members had released deadly sarin by puncturing gas-filled plastic bags with sharpened umbrella tips.

Ohmuro remained on the job that morning, helping frightened commuters make their way outside until he collapsed himself.

"There was nothing but stillness and silence creeping through the station," he said.

"I felt helpless as people's footsteps grew faint. I was left alone there before losing consciousness."

He still struggles to come to terms with the horror, and his anger at Shoko Asahara, 50, the cult guru convicted in February 2004 of masterminding the attack.

"That was unforgivable," he said.

The cult admitted involvement in the attack 1999. A year later it changed its name to Aleph, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, saying it was now benign.

But members remain under police surveillance.

"There are still followers who vow to offer their lives to kill others if they are told to do so by the guru," Takashi Ohizumi, director general of the Public Security Intelligence Agency, told Reuters in a recent interview.

Ohizumi said the cult had signed up new recruits. However, the number of devotees has dwindled in the decade since the attack. Live-in cult members number around 650. Another 1,000 are lay members in Japan and there are 300 members in Russia, according to the Japanese government.

That compares to about 11,400 members in Japan and about 40,000 in Russia in 1995.

After a trial lasting nearly eight years, Asahara, whose real name is Chizuo Matsumoto, was sentenced to death by hanging for a series of crimes including ordering the attack.

No one knows for sure what his motive was.

Media reports have said Asahara, now in a detention center, does not speak, is incontinent, and seems unaware of his surroundings.

Twelve other cultists have been sentenced to death for their roles in the attack. None has been executed yet, and Asahara's own appeal could take years.

"We would like his death sentence to be confirmed soon," said Shizue Takahashi, 58, a representative of the Subway Sarin Incident Victims Association, who lost her husband in the attack.

The group has been seeking financial compensation from the central and Tokyo metropolitan governments, without success.

Asahara set up the cult in 1987, drawing on Buddhist and Hindu meditation and other teachings.

The chubby, nearly blind guru predicted that the United States would attack Japan and turn it into a nuclear wasteland.

Japanese concerns over public vulnerability have grown since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States.

Japanese police, security and military officials have been put on extra alert, though experts say progress has been patchy. *Reuters*

US Congress intervenes to keep Florida woman alive

WASHINGTON—In an effort to keep alive a severely brain-damaged Florida woman, federal lawmakers worked out a bill on Saturday aimed at restoring her feeding tube and pushing the right-to-die case back into court.

The deal for the bill, which could be approved in the next two days, was reached 24 hours after doctors—acting on a Florida court order—removed the feeding tube that has kept Terri Schiavo alive for the past 15 years.

The White House said late on Saturday President George W. Bush was cutting short a vacation in Texas to return to Washington in hopes of signing the bill.

The bill, which will be discussed by the US House of Representatives in a special session on Sunday, would ask a federal judge to review the case from scratch.

Its supporters believe that given the time needed to do that, a judge would ask for the feeding tube to be reinserted so Schiavo did not die before it was complete.

"I think it would be irresponsible (for the judge reviewing the case) not to begin by preserving the individual about whom the case is to be about," Sen. Mel Martinez, Republican of Florida, told a news conference of the latest congressional plan to keep Schiavo alive.

Schiavo, now 41, has been fed through a stomach tube since a heart attack starved her brain of oxygen in 1990, leaving her in what the courts declared was a persistent vegetative state.

The tube feeding has twice been halted and resumed in the past amid legal wrangles and she was expected to survive for one to two weeks without the feeding tube.

Until now, federal courts have turned the case back to state courts during a bitter seven-year legal battle over Schiavo's fate.

"This is not interfering with the judicial function, but it's asking a review by the federal court, much as we would do in a death penalty case," Martinez said.

Schiavo's husband and legal guardian, Michael Schiavo, has long argued, and has been supported by courts, that his wife would not have wanted to live in such a condition.

Her parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, have persistently appealed, believing their daughter responds to them and could improve with treatment.

Saturday's moves followed last-minute efforts earlier this week led by Republicans in Congress to stop the removal of the feeding tube.

Michael Schiavo assailed such moves.

"They should be ashamed of themselves," he said in an interview with the CBS "Early Show" before the news of the congressional deal. "Leave my wife alone. Leave me alone."

Underscoring the family dispute that widened into a highly public right-to-die case that galvanized activists on both all sides of the dispute, Schiavo's mother urged politicians in Florida and Washington, including Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and his brother President Bush to help keep her daughter alive.

Critics of the congressional intervention have included the New York Times, which published a scathing editorial on Saturday accusing Republican lawmakers of "theatrical efforts."

However, Martinez rejected criticism in the media that lawmakers were grandstanding over the issue.

"Nothing could be further from the truth. This is a difficult, gut wrenching issue," he said.

Reuters

Strong quake in Japan kills 1, injures 400

TOKYO—A 75-year-old woman was killed when an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale rocked the southern Japanese island of Kyushu Sunday, injuring another 400 people, a local official and media reports said.

She was the first known fatality in the quake which occurred at 10:53 a.m., collapsing houses and roads, causing landslides and disrupting land and air traffic.

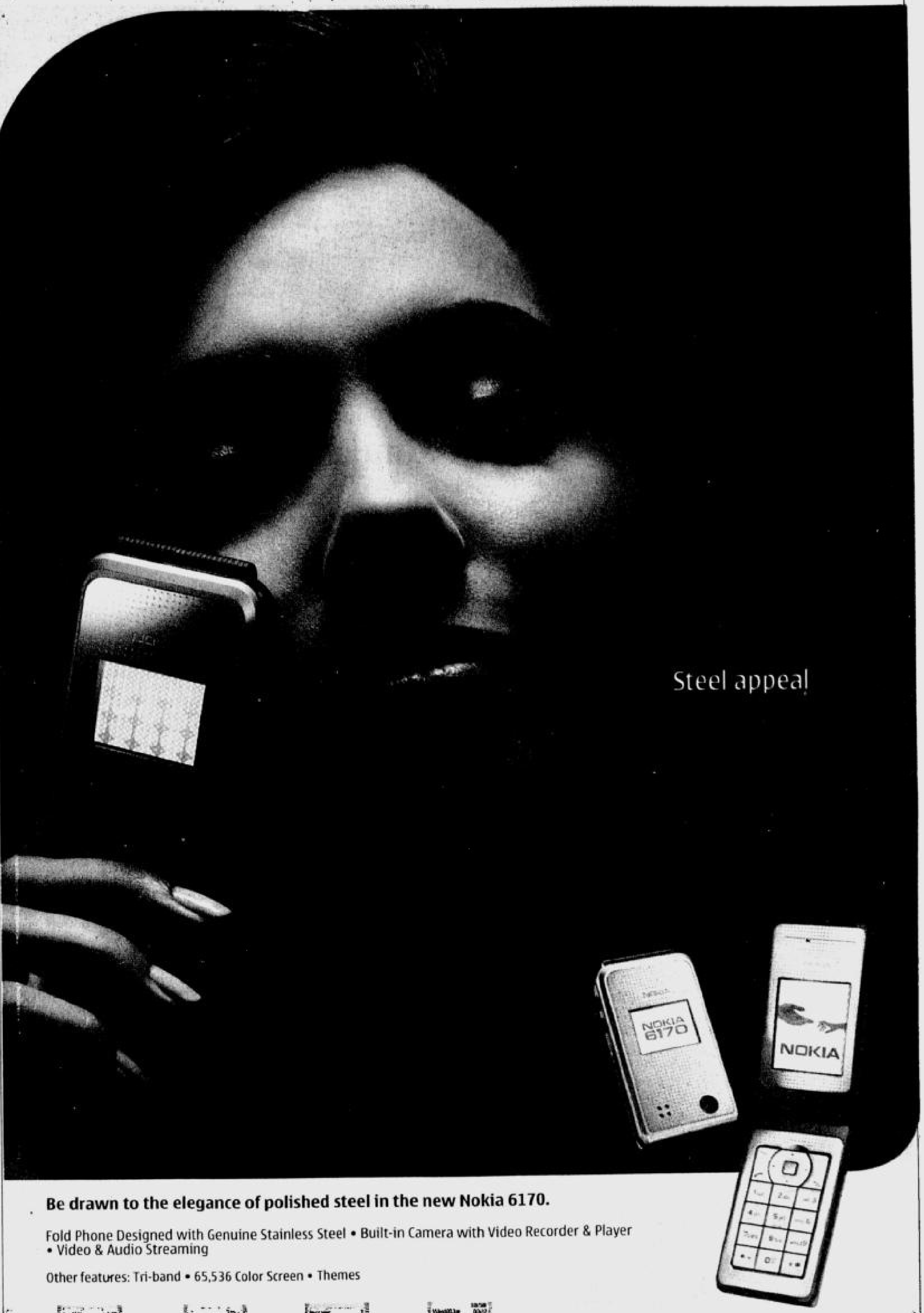
The woman died after she was crushed by a falling block wall in Fukuoka, a major city on the island's northern coast, near the quake's epicenter, a city official said.

"She suffered internal bleeding and a fractured pelvis," the Fukuoka municipal official told AFP by telephone.

At least 400 others were injured in the quake, the Kyodo news agency reported. *AFP*

www.nokia.com.ph

NOKIA
Connecting People



Be drawn to the elegance of polished steel in the new Nokia 6170.

Fold Phone Designed with Genuine Stainless Steel • Built-in Camera with Video Recorder & Player • Video & Audio Streaming

Other features: Tri-band • 65,536 Color Screen • Themes

Calendar, To-do List & Notes
Themes
Easy-to-Navigate Menu
Video & Audio Streaming

NOKIA 6170

Available at the following Nokia Stores and Professional Centers:

Globotel
All Branches
Tel: 888-0104

Pines Multi Telecom Shop
72 Session Road, Baguio City
Tel: (074) 442-4710

Memo Express
All Branches
Tel: 243-9461 to 64

Megacellular
3rd Level, Robinsons Hall
Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tel: (049) 837-1176

Hello
4th Level, Robinsons Galleria
Mandaluyong City
Tel: 636-7598

Semicon
All Branches
Tel: 681-4965

As an assurance of quality, purchase only from authorized Nokia Distributors/Dealers. For inquiries, call the Nokia Careline at (02) 886-1234.

SUMMER FUN. COMPLETE WORKSHOPS.

this Summer make it Happen!

JOIN A JOHN ROBERT POWERS SUMMER WORKSHOP JUST FOR KIDS. TEENS. GRADS.

Special Age Group Workshops in Personality Development, Acting, Modeling, Etiquette, and Grooming. Morning and afternoon Sessions to fit your schedule. Enroll Now and finish before your regular school classes begin. Earn the Worldwide John Robert Powers International Certificate. MAKE THIS SUMMER THE BEST EVER! HAVE FUN AND GET THE LIFETIME BENEFITS OF A WORKSHOP AT JOHN ROBERT POWERS. Enroll early for choice schedules.

CALL NOW!
892 9511

John Robert Powers
www.johnrobertpowers.com
Casmer Building, 185 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati
Guarded Parking Nearby

SAVE UP TO P5,000. ENROLL BEFORE MARCH 31. 0% INTEREST. ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ISSN
0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 20 No. 103

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
• Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
• P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
• Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
• Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
• Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
• 100% soy ink •

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
City Editor **Gerry Lirio**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services **David O. Valdes**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Gloria P. Lardizabal**

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Chicken wire policy

EDITORIAL

THE REST of the country may not care about Bayani Fernando's latest experiment in urban planning and development, but we think there are crucial lessons to be learned from the ongoing fiasco that is the "chicken wire" traffic management scheme.

The first lesson is that it is a failure. The scheme, meant to ease traffic on Edsa, the national capital region's main thoroughfare, has instead added to traffic congestion. We are not certain whether Fernando and other officials of the Metro Manila Development Authority recognize this fact, or understand why. But a simple explanation, based on the experience that hundreds of thousands of commuters have endured every day for the last three weeks, should suffice.

The scheme required the setting up of portable chicken-wire fences along certain portions of Edsa, to reinforce the demarcation of the bus lane. In other words, the idea was to force the thousands of buses plying the Edsa route to stick to their lane.

The problem was, by setting up the fences, which at the base took up maybe only a foot and a half of space, but at the designated exits occupied as much as half a lane, the MMDA actually added traffic bottlenecks to Edsa. Instead of easing traffic flow, the scheme, from Day One, choked it instead.

Why? At certain points in the affected stretches, buses and cars had to negotiate a bus lane that had effectively been reduced from two lanes to one.

The second lesson is that the spirit of experimentation is not enough. When Fernando first assumed the MMDA chairmanship, we welcomed his openness to try new solutions to old problems. It is not often, we said then, that we get public officials willing to press initiatives based on the rigors of science rather than the pressures of politics.

MMDA officials defending the chicken wire scheme have invoked the initiative's experimental character, saying we should wait until the findings are in. But this is like saying that any experiment will do.

An experiment must be thought through and thoroughly prepared for. Unfortunately for Edsa's commuters, this has not been the case with the chicken wire disaster.

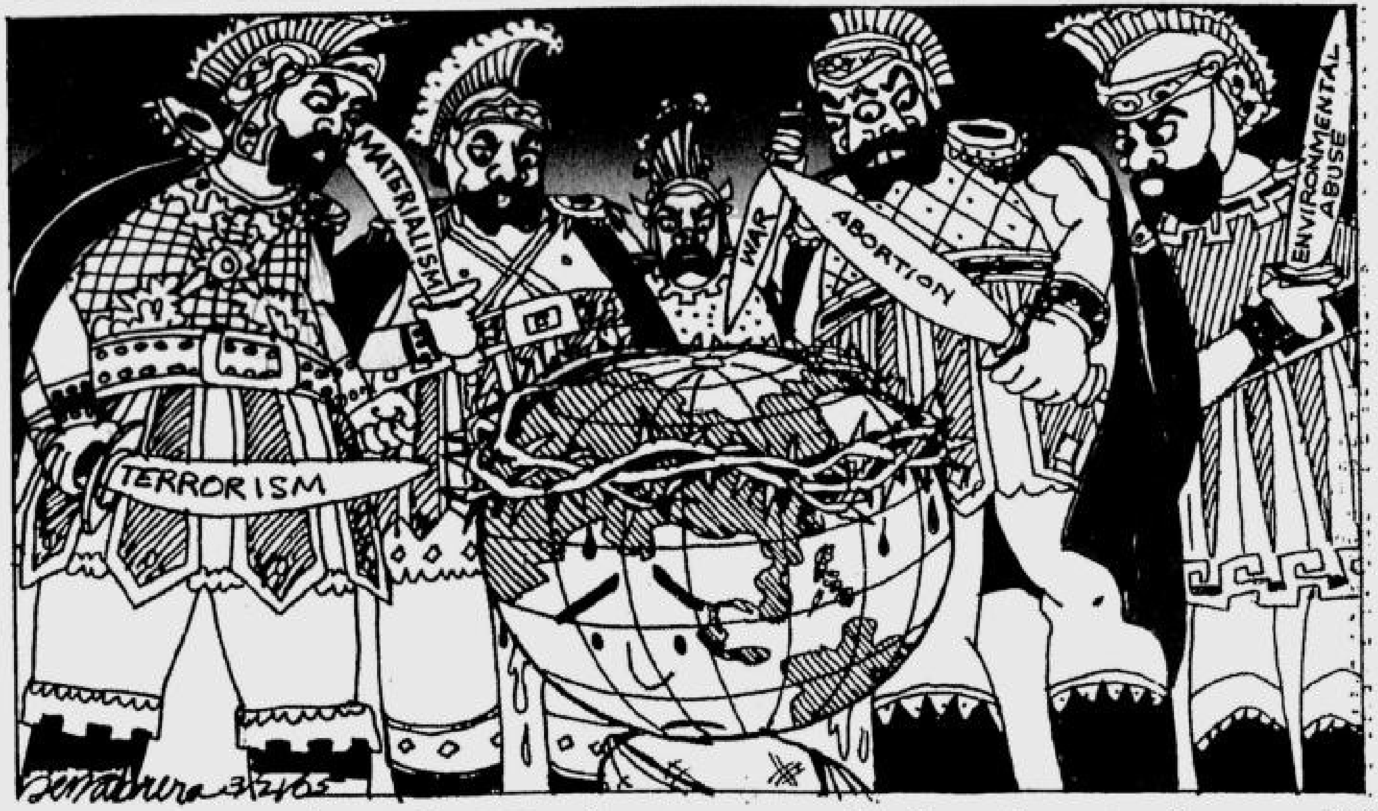
Every day, the details of the scheme changed. One day, for instance, southbound traffic from Cubao in Quezon City had the option to turn right on Annapolis Street in Greenhills. The very next day, the Annapolis exit was closed off, catching motorists by surprise. For a few days, motorists from Connecticut street in busy Greenhills could turn right on Edsa. Then one day, without so much as a by-your-leave, the MMDA closed the Connecticut exit off.

The sudden changes sowed confusion among Edsa's regular motorists. Worse, the changes were done, not late at night, when traffic is light, but in the middle of the day. There were even a few times when the fences were moved or traffic barriers and gates relocated during rush hour.

Can anyone in the MMDA actually say that conditions for the experiment were stable enough, or controlled enough, that we can draw valid conclusions from it? Anyone who has ever driven down Edsa knows that traffic conditions vary every day, with Friday, for some reason, always bearing the heaviest traffic. How can, say, a one-day experiment for a particular exit point prove anything?

The third lesson is that effective governance requires managing the public's expectations. The MMDA's chicken wire scheme played fast and loose with both motorists and commuters. No explanations were given, no announcements were made. The fences went up, then down, then up again; and the exits moved from one location to another, without any attempt to inform the public beforehand. Is it any wonder that the scheme enjoys little public support?

The last lesson is philosophical, a matter of outlook. Fernando and his MMDA crew seem to have given up hope in the effectiveness of regular methods of traffic enforcement. The pink fences are like an admission of previous failure: we need to put them up, the MMDA seems to be saying, because our traffic enforcers cannot enforce the bus-lane rule. It is all of a piece with Fernando's notorious wet-rag scheme. If pedestrians in that case, and motorists in this case, don't follow the rules of their own accord, then it is the MMDA's job to force them to. But we cannot agree with Fernando. We distinguish between a realistic approach and his cynicism. Thus, Lesson No. 4: Don't expect progress if you treat people like, well, chicken.



Annual Holy Week stampede begins today

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IN AFRICA, they have the annual migration of the wildebeest; in Europe, of the lemmings; in Mexico, of the monarch butterflies; in the cold regions, of the migratory birds; in the seas, of the salmon, whales and red crabs; but in the Philippines the migration is of people going to the provinces and, for public officials with allowances like congressmen, to foreign countries. The stampede begins today and will peak on Wednesday. The trickle started as early as last weekend. It is like that every Holy Week.

The highways will be full of vehicles rushing to the provinces. In spite of the high toll fees, motorists will rush through the North Luzon Expressway.

In contrast, the usually congested streets of Metro Manila will be half-deserted. This is the time to enjoy Metro Manila; the streets are all yours. You can zoom from Quezon City to Makati in 30 minutes, a trip that usually takes two hours on other days. You can now go to places that you have not been to because of the traffic.

In the African savannah, the lions go hungry because their prey have left to migrate where the grass is greener. In Metro Manila, the restaurants that used to be crowded (those that will stay open) will all be yours during Holy Week. The people that make you lose your appetite won't be there. They'd be in the beaches or strung out on the highways, suffering in the heat and traffic; or waiting at airports and piers, wishing they hadn't left home.

On Black Saturday or Easter Sunday, this curious migration will be repeated in reverse. Those who leave today will be hurrying back to the homes they had left in a hurry days before. I once overheard a child ask his parents while en route home: "Why did we leave home in the first place if we have to hurry back?"

Indeed, the most exhausted people after the Holy Week are those who take vacations away from the city. The most relaxed are those smart enough to stay home.

* * *

This being the season to contemplate the sufferings of Jesus Christ in the hands of Roman soldiers, let us include in our contemplations the sufferings of ordinary Filipinos in the hands of some government employees.

Below is a letter of one such suffering Filipino, an 82-year-old retired UP professor, who should be relaxing now and enjoying her retirement after serving the government and faithfully paying her premiums to the Government Service Insurance System all those long years.

I have written about her earlier in my column. She is a widow, and disabled, having difficulty moving around. She has no other income except her pension. Nevertheless, she and her caregiver were given the runaround and hobbled with interminable red tape at the GSIS.

A day after the column came out, she wrote telling me that a GSIS representative had gone to her house, cut all the red tape and she got her ID obviously upon orders of GSIS chief Winston Garcia himself. In other words, if the GSIS wants to work faster, it can do it.

But habits die hard, and GSIS officials and employees generally give members the runaround, making life hard for them. The professor, Mrs. Nenita Socrates, sent me another letter relating her new Calvary at the GSIS:

"Again, I am running to you for help. The previous time you helped me by publishing in your column my complaint about the GSIS. As soon as the INQUIRER hit the streets, I immediately got a call from the office of Mr. Winston Garcia, assuring me he would send his assistant to get my documents. Before the morning was over, his representative came to pick up my documents and I was puzzled because I was made to fill up an application form, the only paper they got from me, leaving, however, the documents they required me to procure, saying they were not needed anymore. Then and there I was given a temporary ID.

"Now comes another ordeal. March 14, 2005, I received a form letter from Ms. Edna B. Jaurigue, manager of the GSIS office in Quezon City, dated March 1, advising me to procure, AGAIN, those documents deemed useless by their personnel the previous time. Because I suspected I could not use the old documents, I felt it was necessary to get updated ones. So I mobilized my 55-year-old caregiver to get the needed papers. March 18, she went with all these documents at 8 a.m., thinking that if she would be in the office of Ms Jaurigue this early, she might be attended to with dispatch. She went to GSIS, Quezon City. She tried to submit the papers to Ms Jaurigue but was told she was not receiving papers yet but would get them in June. When my caregiver remonstrated that her stated deadline was on or before March 30, she airily said we should disregard that. How can one under the thumb of this great GSIS disregard the pronouncement of a high-ranking official like the manager of the branch who has direct supervision over her? Why in heaven's name should the letter state that submission must be 'on or before March 30,' followed by a threat that failure to comply may mean possible temporary suspension of my monthly pension? Why allow the octogenarian pensioner to frantically meet a deadline and then told she should have disregarded it?

"I elevated my complaint about the GSIS direct to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Nov. 13, 2004. This was just requesting instructions how to renew my Pensioner's ID which I learned I have to do yearly. My letter was endorsed to Mr. Bobby Dumlap, who in turn informed me through an official letter that my letter was endorsed to the president of the GSIS, Jan. 5, 2005. In spite of repeated follow-ups, I have not heard anything, not a peep, from the President, Mr. Dumlap, or from the GSIS."

Dying things

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S reason to be deeply bothered, if not openly alarmed—elementary and high school graduating students are faring badly in English and Science and Math. 'In the last National Achievement Test and High School Readiness Test, examinees scored only 32 percent and 38 percent for English and Science and Math. The passing mark was 60 percent.

"It's all a function of reading," says Juan Miguel Luz, an undersecretary of the Department of Education. "The kids are not reading, or are not reading with comprehension."

He is probably completely right. But that explanation itself requires an explanation. Why are the kids not reading or not reading with comprehension?

I can imagine several reasons for it, but I don't know that most of them are solved easily.

The first is right there in the very subject that encapsulates reading: English. The reading—and writing—is done in English. As local teachers of Science and Math have pointed out long ago, their students double the work of their counterparts in the English-speaking world. They have to learn the language first, and then express scientific and mathematical concepts in it. Their counterparts merely have to deal with the second.

Language is the one formidable barrier to literacy in this country. Nothing shows it more than the circulation of newspapers, a mind-boggling fact that hit me like a thunderbolt in the course of attending media conferences in various parts of Asia. We are the odd-man-out in the region in many respects, chief of them being that our mass-circulation papers are in English. Elsewhere, the mass-circulation papers are in the local languages, with only the publications for expatriate audiences using English.

Now here's the kicker. The mass circulation broadsheets in this country come up to a total of only a million, probably less. The mass circulation newspapers in Bangkok, Malaysia, Japan, India and elsewhere in Asia run into millions individually. Those newspapers are read by mass and elite alike, by young and old alike. There and then you see the monumental obstacle to literacy that language poses in this country. We do not have a mass base of people reading newspapers.

But there's the rub, I don't know what the solution is. Because we also have a unique problem: while most of us can understand Filipino—or Tagalog—most of us read in English. While all of the talk shows on TV have converted to Tagalog because that is the language best understood in the country, newspapers cannot convert as well to it because that is not the language best read in the country. That is a huge divide, our spoken and written language, our oral and visual language, and I myself welcome suggestions on how to bridge it.

The second reason for the plunge in the reading skills of students is more patent. It is the same reason reading has declined in other parts of the world. That is the overrunning of TV and digital technology of the world. At least, digital technology, which is interactive, still offers reading by way of the Internet and the e-mail, though their horrendous impact on literate-ness, if not literacy, has been noted by no small number of teachers, particularly of grammar. TV, in particular, has wreaked havoc on a population that to begin with has never been universally or widely literate.

The decline in reading from the 1960s to the present is real, but also a little exaggerated. Even then, literacy was rife only among the upper and middle classes, never among the lower ones. But the fact that there was a strong middle class then made the gains in reading palpable. Bookstores did make money on books and not just on school supplies. There were several of them, competing ferociously in Avenida Rizal and elsewhere. Few people owned TV sets, and TV largely featured only canned serials. Journalism was print, and writers and editors carried a lot of clout with the public. They were the ones Marcos put in jail when he declared martial law in 1972.

Today, the quip, "I'll just wait for the movie" (rather than read the book), is not a quip at all. Reading, particularly of books, has fallen to an all-time low, no small thanks to the advent of Cable TV and the plenitude of (pirated) video.

Now here I can only hope that the downward trend can be slowed down, or curbed. It can't be stopped altogether. Indeed, I have friends who once read voraciously, who now tell me it's all they can do to read a few books a year, they'd rather watch DVDs. Alternatively, we can always explore the advantages digital technology offers. The e-mail was one of the biggest contributors to Edsa II: It allowed expatriate Filipinos to participate in their country's affairs in real time. The youth, in particular, grasping their world in more iconic ways, maybe we can improve their visual aesthetics while trying to impress upon them the need to supplement it with reading. I do know the problem of reading is more than one that can be solved in, or by, the classroom.

One last important reason is that the DepEd now exists as an adjunct of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Education is there to prepare students to become OFWs, a development particularly demonstrated by the mushrooming of nursing courses or departments. That is, also, quite incidentally how—and why—English is taught, which is not to open vistas to the world but to open up contractual visitations on the world. Then people read for the pure pleasure of reading, now people read for the sheer drudgery of communicating with employers. Then people read books, now people read immigration forms.

But this at least can be helped. That is by making education do what it is supposed to do. That is to educate.

No running away from responsibility

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

MY past two columns detailed how some 25 depositors (rumored to be actually 48 in all) of the Philippine National Bank-Sucat branch ended up as victims of two unscrupulous bank officials who have since been dismissed from office. The depositors allegedly took out back-to-back or "holdout" PNB loans against their own deposits, which were lent out by the two PNB officials to a former bank client with a bad record at the PNB. When the latter couldn't pay for his "loans," the bank seized the depositors' funds to pay for the "loan charges." The depositors claim they never contracted those loans, and that they are victims of gross deception and forgery.

* * *

On June 2, 2004, the bank said in a press statement that it has "neither sanctioned nor consented to such irregularities." Stressing its commitment to the principle that "banking is a business based on trust," PNB officials assured depositors that the Sucat case "is both unfortunate and isolated" and that it was undertaking "appropriate measures" to address the irregularities. These include administrative charges against the concerned personnel.

The question in many minds is, what about the claims of the victims, which run into millions of pesos? Last week, this columnist talked (by phone) with Joselito L. Vicedo, PNB vice president for channel management service/operations group. He said he had met late last year with the aggrieved depositors, and he stressed that there is a process governing complaints. He said after a review by the affected branch, the case goes to the regional office—for another fact-finding investigation by its internal audit group. Then the case is referred to the legal department. Vicedo said that the case is now with the legal department, which has asked for additional documents.

* * *

Vicedo also said the loan documents appear to be legal, and that it's possible that some claimants may already have recovered the principal of their deposits. In his letter to Ligaya Pasimio dated Sept. 16, 2004, he stressed that as a matter of bank policy, whenever a person/client enters into a loan agreement with the PNB, he is given a copy each of several duly accomplished documents, including the promissory note and hold-out on peso/FX savings deposit/time deposit and assignment of deposit substitute. Vicedo listed for Pasimio the serial numbers of her "promissory notes" and presumed she received copies of those documents.

* * *

Judging from Vicedo's statements, as well as the bank's response to Corazon J. Guerrero, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' director of Supervision and Examination Department, the PNB's official position seems to be that those documents are genuine; and that all the complainants have, in fact, received their copies of those documents when they made out those "loans." The bank appears to have no intention of returning the depositors' money. But there have been moves made by the bank that have weakened its position, and I certainly hope some crusading lawyers would pick up the case of the hapless PNB depositors, most of whom were unsuspecting senior citizens. Lamentably, it seems that the government agencies that supposedly supervise banks, such as the BSP and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation, have given up pressing the case for the depositors; thus the latter can only rely on the help of crusading lawyers and members of Congress. There could be similar cases happening in the banking system.

* * *

But I submit that the PNB cannot run away from responsibility in this case; it has to pay the depositors. In the first place, it admitted in the press release cited above that there have been irregularities in its Sucat branch which it neither sanctioned nor consented to. Moreover, these irregularities happened within the bank's premises over two or three years, involving even tellers under instruction of the branch manager.

The bank's responsibility is very clear in a report submitted by the PNB's Internal Audit Group (IAG). The report detailed the complaint filed by depositors Maxima Villar (reportedly a relation of Sen. Manuel Villar) and Virginia Pollard. The IAG report established that "the flow of transactions employed by respondent (Gregorio) and the other personnel cited…in the 'lending operation' was evidently irregular." It stressed that respondent "had committed acts constituting gross misconduct" which damaged the reputation of the bank and prostituted its fiduciary obligation to its depositors. The report recommended her dismissal without prejudice to "monetary liability and legal actions in the event that the Bank is dragged into court suits on account of the controversies…"

Also interesting is that the IAG report pointed out that from September 1997 to September 2003, Gregorio had already been investigated for six cases of malfeasance, including "irregular lending operations." In four of the cases, the investigations were either "dropped and considered closed and terminated with stern warning." The other two, the IAG noted, were still pending with the bank's administrative adjudication panel. In other words, despite a bad record with the PNB, Gregorio was allowed to continue holding the post of manager of PNB-Sucat, where she, together with customer service officer Gloria Miranda, was able to victimize many depositors. To the PNB's credit, it finally dismissed her in 2003, but it's also evident that by keeping her in the top post for so many years despite her bad record, the PNB had been remiss in its responsibility to its depositors.

Nuclear Damocles' sword

NEWS ANALYSIS

Louis Charbonneau

VIENNA—In 1961, US President John F. Kennedy warned before the United Nations General Assembly:

"Every man, woman and child lives under a nuclear sword of Damocles, hanging by the slenderest of threads, capable of being cut at any moment by accident, or miscalculation, or by madness.

"The weapons of war must be abolished before they abolish us."

That General Assembly adopted an Irish draft resolution which resulted in the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the global pact to halt the spread of atomic weapons. The NPT took effect in 1970, but the sword still hangs. Nine countries possess some 30,000 atomic weapons—enough to destroy the planet many times over—and dozens more could build a bomb if they wanted to.

With this in mind, the 189 signatory-countries of NPT will meet in New York in May to review the pact's strengths and loopholes. Mohamed ElBaradei, the Egyptian who heads the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), says there are three reasons why the treaty is in urgent need of review: the emergence of a nuclear black market, the determined efforts by more countries to acquire technology to produce the fissile material useable in nuclear weapons and the clear desire of terrorists to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

But despite the increasing threat of a nuclear holocaust, the NPT signatories are now too divided to agree on anything that would improve the situation, noted Gary Samore, a security expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

Some want a tougher regime of IAEA inspections. But Samore said this was unlikely. "The problem is there's not an international consensus," he said. "I predict sound and fury signifying nothing. The NPT review conference is not going to produce a positive result."

Indeed, the situation does not look good. Four countries—India, Israel, Pakistan and North Korea—are outside the pact.

NPT's five nuclear powers—the United States, Russia, France, Britain and China—have yet to scrap their arsenals; and Washington and Moscow are exploring new weapons. This, experts say, encourages other countries to go for the bomb.

Making matters worse, the IAEA is still trying to stamp out a global nuclear black market linked to Abdul Qadeer Khan, the disgraced engineer who built Pakistan's nuclear weapons program. Khan supplied Libya, Iran and North Korea with centrifuge technology used to make atomic fuel for power plants or bombs. ElBaradei has described his network as a virtual "supermarket" for states interested in getting the bomb.

Khan is under house arrest and much of his network has been dismantled. But UN diplomats and nuclear experts say that Pakistan has developed new illicit channels to upgrade its own uranium enrichment program, raising concerns that rogue nations and terrorist groups can still acquire bomb technology.

Pakistan denies this, saying its equipment is all home made.

Analysts say Islamabad's denials lack credibility.

Some non-US diplomats accuse Washington of turning a blind eye on Pakistan, which has never allowed IAEA or US authorities to interrogate Khan to find out exactly what and who was supplied by his network over the last two decades.

"The network hasn't been shut down," Joe Cirincione of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said. "It's just gotten quieter. Perhaps, it's gone a little deeper underground."

ElBaradei says nuclear-armed North Korea is the greatest proliferation threat facing the world. The reclusive Stalinist state recently suspended participation in the six-party talks aimed at persuading it to abandon its atomic arsenal in exchange for economic aid and security guarantees.

Two years ago, North Korea became the first country to withdraw from the NPT. Analysts and UN experts say that if another country were to do the same, the treaty might collapse.

US President George W. Bush has called for a radical reinterpretation of the NPT that would divide its members into two groups—those that can be trusted with technology that produces nuclear fuel and those that cannot be trusted.

Many countries dislike Bush's plan, saying the trusted would be the US allies, while the suspect states would be the US enemies.

ElBaradei proposed a different solution—a global moratorium on the creation of new enrichment and plutonium reprocessing facilities for making atomic fuel. His plan has met with fierce opposition from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Iran, Japan and the United States.

Iran concealed its enrichment program from the IAEA for nearly two decades in violation of NPT safeguards. Bush believes Iran wants the bomb, a charge Tehran denies.

The European Union, with Bush's backing, has asked Iran to give up enrichment forever for economic and political incentives.

For its part, Washington has announced a major policy shift that brings it close to the negotiating table with Tehran for the first time in 25 years. It has promised to stop blocking Iran's entrance into the World Trade Organization and sell it spare aircraft parts if Tehran abandons enrichment.

Iran dismissed the US offer as "too insignificant to comment about." But the EU said that if Iran rejected the EU offer, it would back a referral to the UN Security Council for possible economic sanctions.

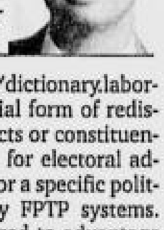
Failure to end enrichment could lead to military action by Israel or the United States, analysts say. Or the world may decide it would be easier to try to live with an Iranian bomb and allow the number of nuclear powers to reach double digits.

Reuters

A kind of referendum

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



SINCE the administration of President Quirino, the Philippines has been subdivided from 52 into 79 provinces. A proposal to raise the number of provinces further, to 80 or 81, by dividing the province of Cebu into two or three new provinces, has resulted in a furious debate among Cebuanos both at home and abroad. Exponents of Cebuano pride can be sure of one thing: the energy shown by Cebuanos on either side of the proposal demonstrates a praiseworthy attention to issues.

The Cebuanos must decide for themselves, of course, what is best for them; but their decision to either retain the present province, or divide it, is of national importance. It has enduring consequences, among other things, for exponents of "federalism." I am for federalism, in large part because it provides an opportunity to form—to borrow Lincoln's phrase—"a more perfect union" among ethnic groups and provinces with historical resentments against a Manila-run, unitary government. Modern challenges are such that it is impossible to continue placing all the burden of governance (and misgovernance) on the shoulders of a Manila administration, when provinces should be increasingly capable of managing both their destinies and their funds. While I continue to be in favor of a strong executive, I'd prefer an executive tasked with national defense, foreign affairs, and general economic policy, to the increasingly unworkable system that waits for Manila to do everything, and anything.

However, my support for federalism is preconditioned on a profound re-drawing of the political map. This would require the preeminent task of abolishing many of the existing provinces, and the creation of new "federal states" which follow ethno-linguistic lines. To do otherwise will result in a fatally flawed Federal Philippines, composed merely of a patchwork of tiny, unsustainable provinces, instead of a voluntary union of self-sufficient, cooperative federal states.

Why do we have so many provinces? Because of gerrymandering. "Gerrymandering," according to an online source (http://dictionary.laborlawtalk.com/): "is a controversial form of redistricting in which electoral districts or constituency boundaries are manipulated for electoral advantage, usually of incumbents or a specific political party, mainly in two-party FPTP systems. Gerrymandering may also be used to advantage or disadvantage a particular racial, linguistic, religious or class group. The word gerrymander serves both as a verb meaning to perpetrate the abuse, and as a noun describing the resulting electoral geography."

I have observed that support is high for federalism among professional politicians, because national elections, which are expensive and media-driven, are losing propositions for a great number of political dynasties. Their ability, in the face of term limits, to hold on to power, is limited by national elections and by their inability to compete on the national level. But to support federalism, only to guarantee the continued stranglehold on power by local kingpins and warlords, is wrong. Federalism should be embraced because it will eliminate historical grudges, rectify the unfair division of national and natural resources, and result in a more democratic and progressive country.

So what the Cebuanos, among the most energetic supporters of federalism, decide to do concerning their province, will affect the fate of federalism. The creation of a Federal State of Cebu, which ideally should be based on all areas that speak Cebuano (which means possibly even parts of Mindanao), becomes that much more difficult when such a state would have to incorporate even more provinces. The division of Cebu province will benefit its proponents among the political class, but will it serve the interests of Cebuanos as a whole? That is the question.

A fundamental flaw of our current political setup is that we are perpetually carving up our finite territory into increasingly small political units, each of which requires a vast number of new positions to be filled. For every municipal, city and provincial unit created, comes an infestation of new political jobs, the majority of which do not accomplish anything except the creation of patronage and chances for officeholders to either enrich themselves or feed off the taxpayer. This is not democracy; it is the strengthening of a parasite-like, professional political class, resulting in an increasingly anemic republic.

So it's not just a matter of asking why we have so many provinces, but also, why we have so many positions guaranteed for those provinces. A friend once reacted in disgust to the tiny number, relatively speaking, that the Constitution deems fit to justify a representative in Congress. Is such a system efficient and economically viable? Does such a system actually promote short-sighted policies, and the opposite of adequate representation? What if it were more efficient to have the present congressional system apply to provincial legislatures in a federal system, with a larger electorate selecting federal representation? In other words, your present number of congressmen would sit in the house of each federal state, while a number of representatives closer to the old regionally elected (pre-1935) Senate, would sit in a national legislature, representing the interests of each federal state.

These are just some questions that need to be asked. But first thing's first: as Cebu goes, so goes the future prospects of a federal republic of the Philippines. Cebuanos can make it harder, or easier, for the federal cause.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

Wrong illustration

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

WHAT was meant to be a "feel good" Sunday issue of the INQUIRER last Feb. 13 turned out to be anything but that to the family of a Filipino hero.

As it was the day before Valentine's Day, that particular edition of the newspaper featured in its Lifestyle section a love story whose setting was suburban Manila in the 1940s. It was a touching account of a love affair that flourished during World War II.

A sketch of the faces of the late Manuel Colayco and Josefa Llanes Escoda, which were done in sepia, accompanied the article. Between and below their faces was the photo of a burning neighborhood.

By way of background, Manuel Colayco was the Filipino military official (a veteran of the Bataan campaign) who led the American troops that stormed the University of Santo Tomas campus in 1945 to liberate the prisoners of war being held by Japanese soldiers. A bullet cut him down when the jeep he was riding in rammed the campus gate.

Escoda was the co-founder of the Girls Scout of the Philippines and the National Federation of Women's Clubs. She was one of thousands of Filipinos who were massacred by the Japanese soldiers in 1945.

Their tragic story, as well as that of other Filipinos who went through that hellish period in our history, was the subject of a five-part series of the INQUIRER last February to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Manila.

Standards

The daughter of Colayco, Maria Teresa Colayco, was distraught over the use of the photo of her father in the love story earlier mentioned. She wrote: "… my father's picture and that of Mrs. Josefa Escoda were used as a photo/illustration for a Sunday Lifestyle article, 'Idyll in the time of innocence,' which had no bearing on either of the subject photographs.

"The prominence of the illustration within the article made it look as if the 'couple' were the subjects of the article.

"I had provided my father's photograph to PDI upon the request of Dewey Joseph Yap who informed me that it would be used in one of the articles in the series 'Holocaust in Manila.'

"The photo did appear in the Feb. 12 issue of the INQUIRER together with the photographs of Josefa Escoda, Antonio Escoda and Gen. Vicente Lim. All of those individuals were featured in that day's informative and well-written article of Alice Colet Villadolid as part of the 'Holocaust in Manila' series.

"I believe that using a photograph of an individual without his or her representative's permission, as part of an illustration for a totally unrelated subject, is not only improper, but runs counter to the general guidelines that I am sure your paper has been practicing."

When asked to comment on the complaint, the person who made the illustration explained that there was no intention on her part to give the readers the impression that Colayco and Escoda were the people referred to in the article. She felt that the use of the photo of two personalities who are closely identified with the bloody days of the Liberation, would give a dramatic impact to the story. She described her error as one made in good faith and without malice.

Looking back, she explained that she should have availed herself of other artistic means to highlight the World War II scenario of the article instead of using the photos of those two heroes.

Regrets

Colayco's daughter has reason to feel bad about the way her father's picture was used for a purpose other than for which it was solicited and lent to the newspaper.

A reader told me that after reading the article in question and looking at the accompanying photo, he thought the characters mentioned in the love story were Colayco and Escoda. The pictures made a deeper impression on him because they came out the day before, on the front page of the newspaper to illustrate the "Holocaust in Manila" stories.

No question about it, the newspaper erred in using the photos of Colayco and Escoda to accompany a love story in which neither one of them had anything to do in any manner whatsoever.

The INQUIRER apologizes to the Colayco family for the anguish and pain it suffered on account of the inappropriate use of his photo. And even in the absence of a complaint from the relatives and friends of Escoda, the newspaper similarly begs their indulgence for the error it has committed in relation to her.

The newspaper would like to assure the readers that the proper measures have been taken by the editorial staff to avoid a similar mistake in the future.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Fading luster

"While we commend the people who still go out and remember Edsa I, we are afraid that its luster diminishes as people get frustrated with the absence of change."

—Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes

Unsightly stars

"We wanted to see flowers, not bodies."

—Filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik, annoyed at the presence of sexy starlets in Baguio's annual flower festival parade

Lost angels

"This is an unspeakable tragedy that can't be blamed on anyone. We have lost our angels."

—Vice Mayor Ester Tabigue on the schoolchildren who died of food poisoning in Mabini, Bohol

Taboo

"Parents do not teach their children because sex is taboo at home. Or, unfortunately, the parents know no better."

—Rep. Edcel Lagman proposing sex education for children starting in the fifth grade

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

LETTERS

No to anti-terrorism bill

AS a communication rights advocate, I vehemently oppose the anti-terrorism bill authored by Rep. Robert Ace Barbers. The bill, which has a provision on electronic surveillance, encroaches on the people's right to privacy, freedom of expression and communication. Under the pretext of combating "terrorism," this bill threatens a person's freedom to communicate as I fear that the government will abuse this measure to conduct surveillance to minimize dissent and silence activists.

In 2001, I protested against the Estrada regime through a website called Erap Alis (www.erapalis.net.ph), which was created by the Foundation for Media Alternatives. This website, along with 200 others and 100 e-mail groups that were set up during that time, became the weapon of choice of many Filipinos frustrated with Estrada's kind of governance.

By sending their statements and by downloading materials through the Internet, Filipinos from all over the world were linked together and were able to topple another president in what was dubbed as the "multimedia revolution." If this bill will be enacted into law, we may never have the chance to use the power of the Internet again to air our grievances.

It is recognized worldwide that wiretapping and monitoring of online environments are highly intrusive forms of investigation and affect persons and organizations opposing a government. Studies have shown that in countries with wiretapping and electronic surveillance laws, targets include political opponents, student leaders, human rights activists, trade unionists and even journalists. For instance, in Denmark and Sweden, two of the most democratic countries, for nearly 40 years, intelligence organizations placed under surveillance thousands of left-leaning activists (Watching the Watchmen and their Watchers, Privacy International).

Yes, "terrorism" is a menace that must be stopped but not at all costs; certainly not at the expense of our right to privacy and communication. The Philippines has enough laws to combat "terrorism," we surely do not need this one.

—JOSE MA. O. DIMAANDAL,
22-B Troy Compound,
Pasong Tamo, Quezon City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

VAT grossly insensitive

THE PROMOTION of Church People's Response (PCPR) demands that the government, instead of increasing the value added tax, change its budget priorities. All these years, the poor have been paying taxes, but the revenues generated go directly to the payment of illegitimate foreign debts. It is immoral and unjust that the bulk of the national budget, which comes from the taxpayers, is misused by the government to pay fraudulent foreign loans.

Instead of a VAT hike, we challenge President Macapagal-Arroyo and the members of Congress to immediately stop the payment of these loans; and to review and repeal the automatic debt appropriations policy.

As long as this policy, a legacy of the Marcos dictatorship, remains in place, the Philippines will be in perpetual indebtedness, and the bulk of taxpayers' money will continue to go to foreign-debt servicing rather than to basic social services that are much-needed by the poor. It is immoral that the Arroyo government keeps on imposing more taxes on our already overburdened people just to pay for foreign debts.

The VAT hike will just increase the misery and outrage of the poor majority. Ms Arroyo has been given time to prove her worth in fulfilling the promises she made—at Edsa, during the 2004 election campaign, in her Sonas, and in many of her public speeches. But all these years of her presidency have only been full of lies and betrayal. What is there for the Filipino people to further expect? What more hardships and heavy burdens await the poor under five more years of Ms Arroyo? VAT is another blatant demonstration of Ms Arroyo's betrayal of public interest and of her gross insensitivity to the sufferings of the poor.

We challenge the Senate to junk the VAT and all additional burdens against the poor. We hail the minority in Congress who voted against the approval of the VAT. We condemn the majority who voted against the welfare of the poor.

—REV. FR. ALLAN JOSE ARCEBUCHE, OFM,
national chair,
Promotion of Church People's Response,
879 Edsa, Quezon City 1101

River robbery

RECENTLY, we were in Pagsanjan Falls, Laguna. While the experience was unique and unforgettable, we met people who are destroying the image of Filipinos.

Before reaching the falls, our boatmen stopped in the middle of the river and refused to proceed unless we tipped them P1,000 each. Their action bordered on extortion, and being in an unknown place with strange men demanding money, we felt threatened. While this infuriated me, I wondered how many other tourists had fallen prey to this "business" practice, and left the Philippines with such a bad memory of its tourism industry.

I was further appalled that the boating company in Pagsanjan, Laguna refused to take responsibility for one of its boats' colliding with ours. The other boat struck my friend's face with great force, nearly missing her eyes and gashing her gums. No one claimed responsibility, offered an apology or suggested restitution. The company's president merely said that the accident was unintentional and it was nobody's fault.

Had this happened in the United States, things would have been a lot different—there would have been an apology straightaway, and then a resolution of the injured party's complaint. Here in the Philippines, the president of the boating company even called me a derogatory name for confronting him, and then turned his back to literally walk away from all responsibility. Dishonest and irresponsible business practices such as these, devoid of any regard for basic courtesies, prevent Philippine tourism from making progress.

As a foreigner, I respect the Filipino people. I' perso[illegible] closely associated with many of them who exert extraordinary efforts to make both ends meet. I find it disheartening whenever I meet people w[illegible] ruin this perception with dishonesty.

In the few hours we were [illegible] the river, there were over a hundred Korean, American, European and Filipino tourists. In the future there will be many more of them. What kind of impression will these people bring home with them if they experience the same nightmarish treatment that we did in Pagsanjan? I wonder if they will ever consider coming back to the country. We certainly have no more such intention.

How many tourists feel powerless and helpless in such situations because there are no authorities to report to? (Bangkok has the phone number of the "tourist police" posted all over the city.)

There should be legitimate information booths in tourist spots in the Philippines. This way, law enforcement officers can help foreign and local travelers alike. The Philippines should clean up its tourism industry.

—KAIWIOLA COAKLEY, Hawaii, USA
and LINDSAY DAHL, Arizona, USA,
JACOB MELZER, California, USA

Filipino Joseph Goebbels

THE KAPISANAN ng mga Broadcaster ng Pilipinas has betrayed its utter lack of understanding of the very vocation it is tasked to promote. It tragically has just assumed the post of a contemporary Filipino Joseph Goebbels.

There are, as already pointed out by several columnists, at least several issues that should have cautioned the KBP into making such a ghastly decision: who defines who the "terrorists" are; and how credible the military is as an organization, or the state itself that it claims to be protecting.

In the dangerously dim-witted illogic of the Philippine military, even Satur Ocampo or Pastor Sanchez, the father of one of the victims of the Luisita mass murder, are definitively "terroristic"! Mon Tulfo, in spite of his "Dirty Harry streak," made a good point in citing the obvious: "*Ang pikon, talo.*"

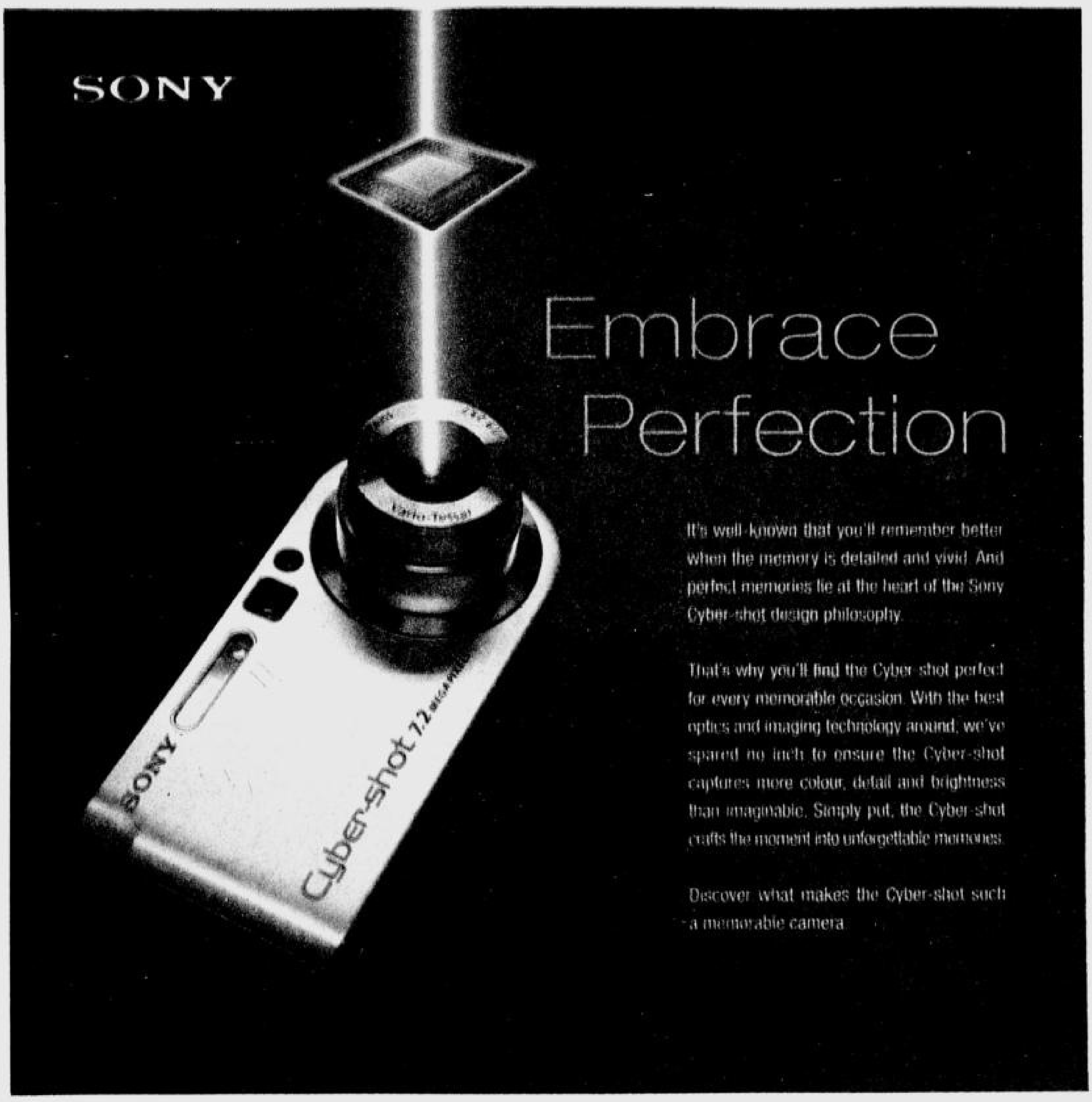
—FERDINAND ANNO,
F_Anno@yahoo.com

Kudos to Doyo

AS a high school guidance counselor, I would like to express my gratitude to God for giving us columnists like Ceres Doyo who write on the present-day state of Philippine television shows. (PDI, 3/3/05)

I just want to tell her how much I appreciated that column. I pray that she'd continue to expose the negative impact of bad TV shows on unaware "victims"—the Filipino viewers—especially the youth.

—ISRAEL SANTOS,
jacobjames04@yahoo.com



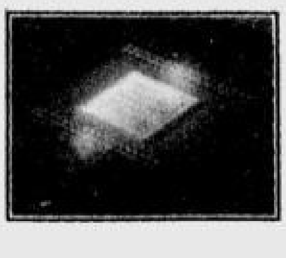
It's well-known that you'll remember better when the memory is detailed and vivid. And perfect memories lie at the heart of the Sony Cyber-shot design philosophy.

That's why you'll find the Cyber-shot perfect for every memorable occasion. With the best optics and imaging technology around, we've spared no inch to ensure the Cyber-shot captures more colour, detail and brightness than imaginable. Simply put, the Cyber-shot crafts the moment into unforgettable memories.

Discover what makes the Cyber-shot such a memorable camera.

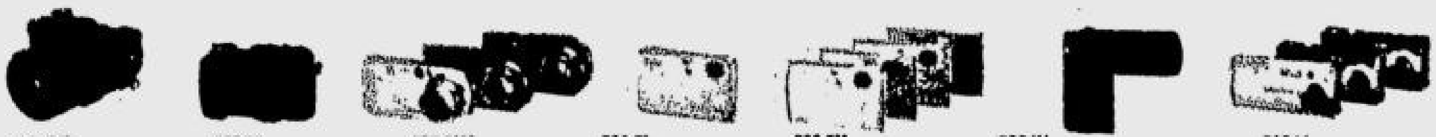
REAL IMAGING PROCESSOR

Exclusively a Sony technology, the revolutionary Real Imaging Processor (RIMP) enhances your photo capturing experience. With high-speed digital processing, the energy-efficient RIMP reduces picture noise, delivering smoother and more detailed images. An intelligent technology, RIMP offers photographers faster shooting time, swifter burst shooting and near simultaneous image processing for an immediate display of images.



CARL ZEISS LENS

World-renown for its high-quality precision optics, the high-performance Carl Zeiss lens captures still images with outstanding brilliance, excellent colour accuracy and enhanced definition, with almost zero distortion. Flawless imaging begins here.



DSC-F828
- Effective 8.0 Mega Pixels
- Carl Zeiss Vario-Sonnar T* Coating
- 4 Color System RGB+Emerald
- NightShot/ Night Framing System
- Manual Exposure, Zoom and Manual Focus controls

DSC-V3
- Effective 7.2 Mega Pixels
- Carl Zeiss Vario Sonnar Lens
- 4x Optical Zoom
- 2.5 LCD Screen
- Nightshot/ Night Framing
- Manual Camera Function

DSC-P200
- Effective 7.2Mega Pixel
- 3x Optical Zoom
- Carl Zeiss "Vario-Tessar"
- MPEG Movie VX

DSC-T3
- Effective 5.1 Mega Pixels
- Carl Zeiss Vario Tessar lens
- 6.35cm (2.5") LCD Screen
- 3x Optical Zoom

DSC-T33
- Effective 5.1 Mega Pixels
- Carl Zeiss Vario Tessar lens
- 6.35cm (2.5") Clear Photo
- 3x Optical Zoom

DSC-M1
- Effective 5.1 Mega Pixels
- MPEG 4TV Hybrid Recording Mode
- Carl Zeiss Vario Tessar Lens
- 3x Optical Zoom
- 6.35cm (2.5") Hybrid LCD Monitor

DSC-L1
- Effective 4.1 Mega Pixels
- Carl Zeiss Vario Tessar lens
- 3x Optical Zoom
- MPEG Movie VX Fine

Cyber-shot

3 YEAR

For every purchase made from February 1 to March 31, 2005.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0369 Series of 2005
See Posters and Flyers for Details.

www.sony.com.ph

CCC Sony Customer Contact Center
(02) 878-7600
info.sph@ap.sony.com

Exclusively distributed by **Sony Philippines, Inc.** 26/F, Tower 1 The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Ave. cor Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2005 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A17

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Across the NATION
Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Bomb found beside GenSan church

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Members of the police's bomb disposal unit recovered an improvised bomb buried on the ground just beside a chapel of a Catholic Church in Lagao Village here yesterday dawn.

A volunteer resident who helps guard the church was the one who discovered the bomb. He immediately reported it to the police's explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) unit.

Members of the bomb squad recovered an explosive buried less than one foot under the ground just a few meters away from the adoration chapel of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish.

The explosive had no timing device.

Earlier, Chief Supt. Antonio Billones, police chief for Central Mindanao, ordered his field officers to tighten security particularly in churches in time for the celebration of Holy Week.

Churches have been identified as among the targets of terror groups Jemaah Islamiyah and its local ally, the Abu Sayyaf Group.

Police and military operatives were deployed to secure churches especially during Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

This, aside from the regular conduct of checkpoints in strategic entry and exit points, as well as foot patrols being carried out by uniformed police and military personnel in the interior part of the city.

Billones, quoting Supt. Willie Dangane, city police director, denied it was a bomb.

"*Sabi ni* Col. Dangane *sako lang daw na may lamang mga damit. Hindi naman daw bomba,*" Billones said.

But a member of the police's bomb squad, who asked not to be named, confirmed to reporters that what they recovered was indeed an explosive.

Satisfaction

On Friday, President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed satisfaction over the security preparations laid out by the military and police against the reported plan of the Abu Sayyaf to sow terror during the Holy Week.

"I think the security agencies are doing a very very good job in taking care of our security, I don't want to micro-manage when the agencies are doing a very good job," Ms Arroyo said during an interaction with the media in Lamitan, Basilan.

On Thursday, government state prosecutor Peter Medalle issued an alert about the alleged deployment of Abu Sayyaf "sleepers" against churches in urban centers on Holy Week.

Medalle said fresh graduates of Abu Sayyaf have been trained to conduct bombings and demolitions and were reportedly deployed to bomb places of worship.

But the President confidently said that the military and the police knew their job. "They know what to do," she said.

Strategic alliance

She said as for the people of Basilan, they have been benefiting from the development of the area, which was brought about by "our strategic alliance with the US."

"I know the people of Basilan, I could imagine that they feel privileged," she said with clear reference to the conduct of the military exercises and US-led humanitarian missions here.

The government has been crediting the US for the success of its anti-Abu Sayyaf drive especially in Punoh Mahadji.

The area, which used to be the bandit group's camp, has been converted to a rubber plantation last year.

In Davao City, Ms Arroyo's antiterror czar, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said he has ordered a heightened security alert in ports, airport and bus terminal here to ward off possible terror attacks.

Duterte said the tightened security is in response to continuing terror threat against the city.

In 2003, at least 48 people were killed while more than 200 others were wounded when bombs went off at the Davao Airport and the Sasa Wharf.

The explosion was blamed on the Jemaah Islamiyah although the Abu Sayyaf had earlier owned it up.

On Feb. 14, another bomb went off at the Ecoland Terminal here.

Duterte warned the public to prepare for two hours of inspection time at the airport and ports to prevent terrorists from carrying out their plans.

He also dared 'libertarians' and human rights advocates to present their own solution to the terrorist threats now facing the country.

"I challenge them to assume the post of the police chief, let's see what they can do," he told reporters.

To soften the inconvenience of the searches in airports and wharves, Duterte said a number of female police recruits would help in the frisking. *Aquiles Zonio, Julie Alipala and Germelina Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Misuari followers still control 11 villages

PANAMAO, Sulu—Armed followers of jailed Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chair Nur Misuari still control at least 11 villages in this town, a local official said. Panamao has 31 villages.

Town councilor Dala Saddama said some of the barangays have been totally abandoned by residents.

Saddama said some residents visit their villages at daytime but spend the night in evacuation centers.

Saddama identified the ghost villages as Bitanag, Seit, Tandutandu, Datag, Balug, Kulay-kulay, Baunoh, Tabug Jatih, Banday, Lunggang Maasi and Tubig Gantang.

"We cannot get inside our village, Malik (Ustadz Habier Malik) and his men are the ones harvesting our coconut," Saddama said.

Malik is the leader of the MNLF men who engaged government troops in a firefight last month with the aid of Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Melisa Dantes, the municipal social welfare officer, said some villagers indeed refused to return to their homes.

She said only the evacuees from 18 barangays have returned to their homes.

Among the evacuees were some barangay and municipal officials.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman and Presidential Peace Adviser Teresita Deles visited Panamao on March 16.

Southern Command chief Lt. General Alberto Braganza reiterated that normalcy has returned to Panamao, and denied reports that Malik's group has returned to the area. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ex-Ecija dad gunned down

CABANATUAN CITY—A former Nueva Ecija board member and a leader of a farmers' group in Pampanga were killed in separate attacks last week, police reports said.

Former Nueva Ecija Board Member Loreto Pangilinan was shot and killed in front of his house in Barangay San Roque Sur here on Saturday morning.

Police said Pangilinan, 70, who served as acting vice governor in 1998, reportedly engaged two men in an argument in front of his house before he was shot. He died from four bullet wounds in the chest.

In Angeles City, Ben Concepcion, secretary general of the farmers group Aguman da reng Maglalautang Capampangan and coordinator of the party-list group Anakpawis, was gunned down near his house in Villa Angela here on Thursday night.

Concepcion, 67, died at past 9 p.m. in a hospital in the city.

In Bulacan, a businessman was killed after he was ambushed by four men in Barangay Saluysoy in Meycauayan town on Thursday.

Jonwel Deato, 32, who runs a jewelry manufacturing shop in the town, was driving his owner-type jeep when the suspects attacked him.

Supt. Fernando Villanueva, Meycauayan police chief, said the suspects—three men and a woman aboard a blue Honda Civic—were waiting for the victim in the ambush site.

Villanueva said residents told the police that the car had been parked in the area for more than three hours before the attack. *Anselmo Roque, Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

4 dead in treasure hunt mishap

TINAMBAC, Camarines Sur—Four persons died in a treasure-hunting accident in this town after one of them fell into an 18-meter excavation and the three others tried to rescue their companion last Friday morning.

Senior Insp. Amado Montana identified the victims as Benjamin Pula, Joseph Cerillo, Cerelo Domingo and Gil Francia.

Their bodies were retrieved on Saturday.

Montana said Pula first slipped and lost his grip while climbing from the deep excavation at about 7:30 a.m. on March 18 and fell down into a 7.6-meter deep water bottom.

Later, he said, Cerillo went down and attempted to rescue Pula but he did not surface.

Domingo and Francia then followed suit.

When all of the four victims failed to surface, villagers from Sitio Maglusungan, Tamban, Tinambac, Camarines Sur sought the help of the authorities.

On Saturday, local authorities recovered the victims' bodies from the bottom of the excavation and turned them over to their families.

Tinambac is located at the foot of the southern portion of the Mt. Isarog where treasure-hunting activities have been rampant.

Those involved in the activities claimed that treasure hunting is not illegal. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

HYPERTENSION CLAIMS MILLIONS OF LIVES EVERY YEAR.

Don't Count Yourself IN!

Get fast, safe and accurate Blood Pressure readings with MEDITEC DIGITAL BLOOD PRESSURE MONITORS

- MD-650 Fuzzy Automatic Blood Pressure Monitor
  - Fuzzy logic for gentler inflation
  - Easy-to-Read Monitor
  - One touch start/inflation
  - Auto-Power off
  - Memory Function (8 Memories)
- MD-250 Digital Blood Pressure Monitor
  - Inflation by Squeeze Bulb
  - Compact Design
  - Auto Power off
  - Memory Function (1 Memory)
- MD-900T Digital Blood Pressure Monitor
  - TOUCH SCREEN OPERATION
  - 40 memory Function
  - Date / Time Display

HYPERTENSION, a leading cause of heart disease afflicts more than 4 million mostly unaware Filipinos. Don't be caught off-guard. Keep your blood pressure in check right in the comfort of your own home with fast, accurate and reliable blood pressure monitors from MEDITEC.

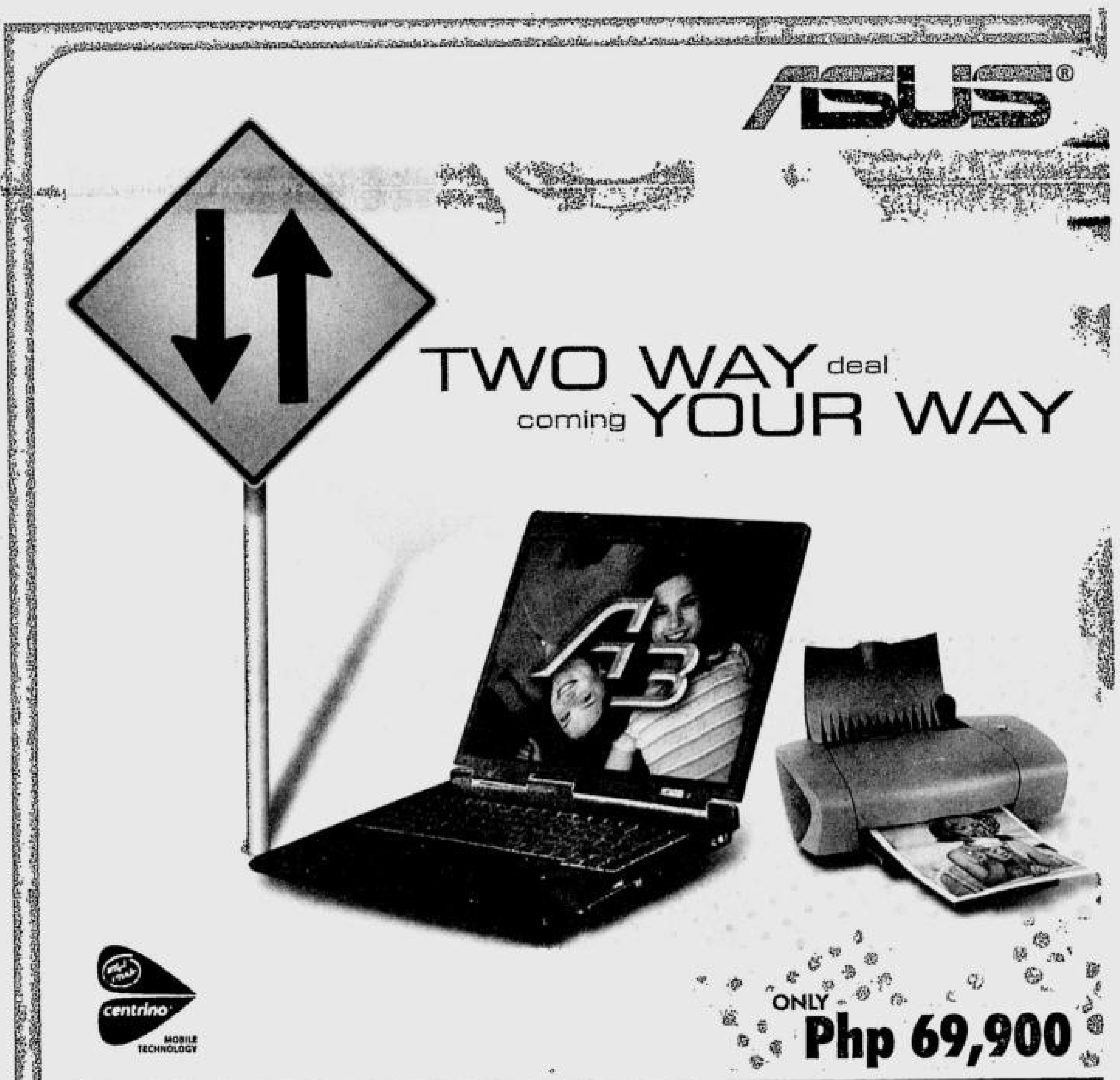
MD-650 FUZZY AUTOMATIC BLOOD PRESSURE MONITOR
MD-250 DIGITAL BLOOD PRESSURE MONITOR
MD-900T BLOOD PRESSURE MONITOR (WRIST TYPE)

Visit our Showroom at the 2nd floor, Mercury Drug Glorietta 3, Makati City

AVAILABLE AT mercury drug STORES NATIONWIDE

Exclusively Distributed by:
medical center trading corporation
Pioneer St. Cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Tels 631-1715 · 631-9355 · 637-9504
Fax (0632) 631-7609 · E-mail medcen@info.com.ph

MANILA	PASIG	LIPA	PAMPANGA
711-8374	631-1715	(043) 757-2051	(045) 961-7082
PANGASINAN	CEBU	DAVAO	ILOILO
(070) 558-7390	(032) 254-2367	(082) 222-4404	(033) 320-1413



ASUS®

TWO WAY deal coming YOUR WAY

centrino MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

ONLY Php 69,900

Pair up on power mobility with the ASUS A3 and Printer Bundle. Now the only computing you'll be doing is on your top-of-the-line notebook packed with it's very own printer at a fraction of the cost.

QUALITY, TECHNOLOGY, VALUE it's what makes ASUS the better choice.

2 YEAR GLOBAL WARRANTY

ASUS A3 Notebook—• Intel Centrino Dothan 2 MB L2 cache at 1.5 GHz • 256 MB DDR RAM • 40 GB Hard Disk Drive • 14" TFT Active LCD Display • Embedded Intel 855 GM VGA • Combo Drive • Intel PRO-Wireless 2100 LAN 802.11 bg• Windows XP (Home Edition) • Smart Card Reader • ASUS Power4 Gear Technology • Built-in Mic • Audio DJ • 2.5 kgs.
Colored Desktop Printer—• 4800 dpi hi photo resolution • can work with single ink cartridge • Ink consumable one of the lowest in terms of cost per page

ASUS SERVICE CENTERS:

Manila: ASUS WORLD Cyberzone,
4th Floor SM Megamall, Bldg. B
(02) 638.2988

Banbros Commercial, Inc.
www.banbros.ph (02) 724 9998
loc. 1404 / 1408 bcitech@banbros.ph

Cebu: (032) 415.8733 / 37
Sales@banbroscebu.com

Complink (02) 920-9140 to 41
TCA (02) 637-1200
Silicon Valley (02) 371-5611 to 19
Villman Computer Systems, Inc.
(02) 892-2222
Accent Micro 426-9829
NTComputer Mart 633-4690

E-Hub (02) 775-0140 to 41
Electroworld 813-6184
Octagon Computers 635-9087
Times Computer 733-1142 to 43
Compex 711-0288

Thinking Tools (032) 264-2227
X-Comp (032) 262-5155 to 57
Wired Systems (032) 255-5282
Concept Iloilo (034) 337-6874

BCG Computers Bacolod
(034) 434-2532 to 39
Microstation 637-1473
Storapple 811-1421 to 25
PC Live 634-2438
Aslanic 893-0408
PC Corner 723-2837
PC Gilmore 722-0184

ASUS
The HEART of TECHNOLOGY

Dumaguete residents oppose septic waste management system

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The city government here broke ground Wednesday for the country's first domestic septic waste management system in Barangay Camanjac amid opposition from nearby residents.

Claiming they were not consulted during the planning of the project, the residents expressed fears that the project, to be built with technology from the United States, would become a health hazard.

Officials, led by Mayor Agustin Perdices, who were present for the groundbreaking themselves, assuaged 20 angry protestors, who complained that they were never consulted of the city's plan.

While the city said it owns the 3.7 hectares where the project will be built, the residents claimed it as their own.

Perdices assured the residents that he would ask the city council to hold a public hearing after the Holy Week to thresh out the complaints. With that assurance, he pushed through with the groundbreaking ceremony while the protesting residents watched from a distance.

Vice Mayor William Ablong, who is a member of the national technical working group tasked to draft the internal rules and regulations of the Clean Water Act, said this project, which will serve as a showcase for other local governments in the country, consists of eight lagoons where the septic waste will be processed. During the processing, the water will be treated biologically and the sludge will be made into fertilizer.

Ablong said the project promises to become a tourist destination for Dumaguete. "The city has been receiving visitors for our environment program and this project will become the best study site for biology students as we envision this to become a wildlife sanctuary," Ablong said.

However, Perdices said he was surprised that there was opposition to the project. "That's normal, especially for people who do not understand our aim," Perdices told the people who witnessed the rites.

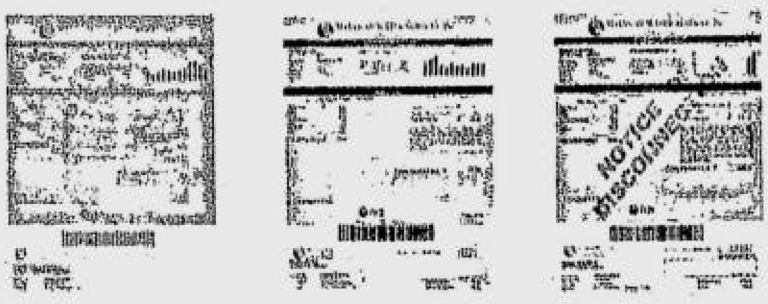
He said he was confident that the opposition to the project would ease the moment they understand what it was all about.

Anastacia Infante, 53, said her 63-year-old husband Arturo had been cultivating this land, belonging to Gregoria Arabejo, since he was 17 years old. "We will insist on our right to till the soil," she demanded.

Another resident, Lito Dales, 68, said the project would be built on his land. "We were not informed of this project. We are poor and we don't have money for medicine if we get sick from inhaling the fumes."

"They did it the wrong way. The talk is that the barangay council had already approved this project before they called for a hearing," said Liberata Diputado, 63.

Camanjac Barangay Captain Romeo Inquig acknowledged that his residents opposed the project when he called for a public hearing last Saturday, but nevertheless vowed to support the project, undertaken by the Local Initiatives for Affordable Wastewater (Linaw) of the US-Asia Environmental Partnership (US-AEP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

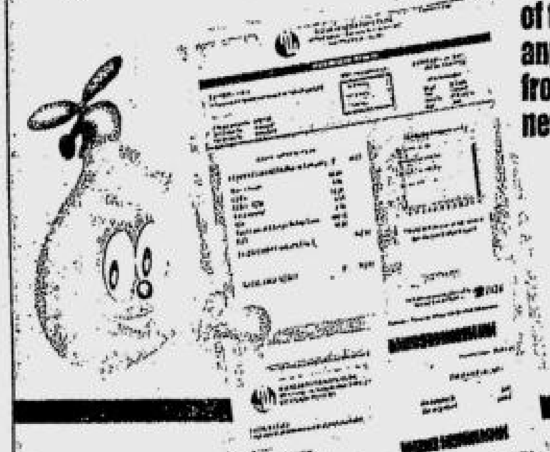

NOTICE DISCONNECTION

Please bring your old colored bill along with your new billing statement when paying your bill.

Maynilad Water Services Inc. has instituted a new billing system starting this month to make its collection of payments faster and more efficient.

As we transition to the new system, we advise our customers to bring their old colored bill along with the new billing statement when they pay their water bills at the accredited Payment Centers, including authorized banks.

This is to ensure acceptance of their payment and to avoid any problems that may arise from the application of the new billing system.



Thank you for your cooperation.

For inquiries, call ☎ MAYNILAD 24-Hour Hotline 1626 or text us through SMART 7001626

SUMMER FROLICS
Children enjoy the cool water of Hundred Islands in Alaminos, Pangasinan. JOAN BONDOC

Nueva Ecija exec, cop face charges for illegal logging

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The municipal administrator of General Tinio town and a policeman in Sta. Rosa town, both in Nueva Ecija, are facing administrative charges for allegedly aiding illegal logging activities, the provincial environment and natural resources officer there said on Saturday.

Fred Sadueste said administrator Rolando Manabat issued the permit for the transport of 3,000 board feet of hardwood belonging to Roberto de Guzman.

The permit was seized from De Guzman in a raid by the Cabanatuan City police and government foresters on a compound owned by a certain Myrna Bulacan at Barangay Pias in General Tinio on Thursday.

On Friday, charges of violations of forestry law were filed against De Guzman and his driver, Edgar Luciano, before the prosecutor's office in Cabanatuan City, Sadueste said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources also seized De Guzman's truck and recommended this for forfeiture.

The arresting team did not take the excuse of De Guzman that he would use the wood for his house.

Sadueste said the policeman, SPO2 Armando Santiago, was caught while escorting the lumber. Santiago, assigned with the Sta. Rosa police's investigation unit, rode a motorcycle.

Thursday's raid came more than a week after 22 policemen and three DENR foresters shot it out with armed men believed in the employ of a suspected illegal logger.

Regidor de Leon, DENR Central Luzon executive director, said the two incidents were part of efforts by illegal loggers in Nueva Ecija and Bulacan to test the government's campaign against illegal logging.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, March 21, 2005
Monday of Holy Week

1st Reading: Is 42:1-7
Gospel: John 12:1-11

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany where he had raised Lazarus, the dead man, to life. Now they gave a dinner for him, and while Martha waited on them, Lazarus sat at the table with Jesus.

Then Mary took a pound of costly perfume made from genuine nard and anointed the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair. And the whole house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Judas, son of Simon Iscariot—the disciple who was to betray Jesus—remarked, "This perfume could have been sold for three hundred silver coins and turned over to the poor." Judas, indeed, had no concern for the poor; he was a thief and as he held the common purse, he used to help himself to the funds.

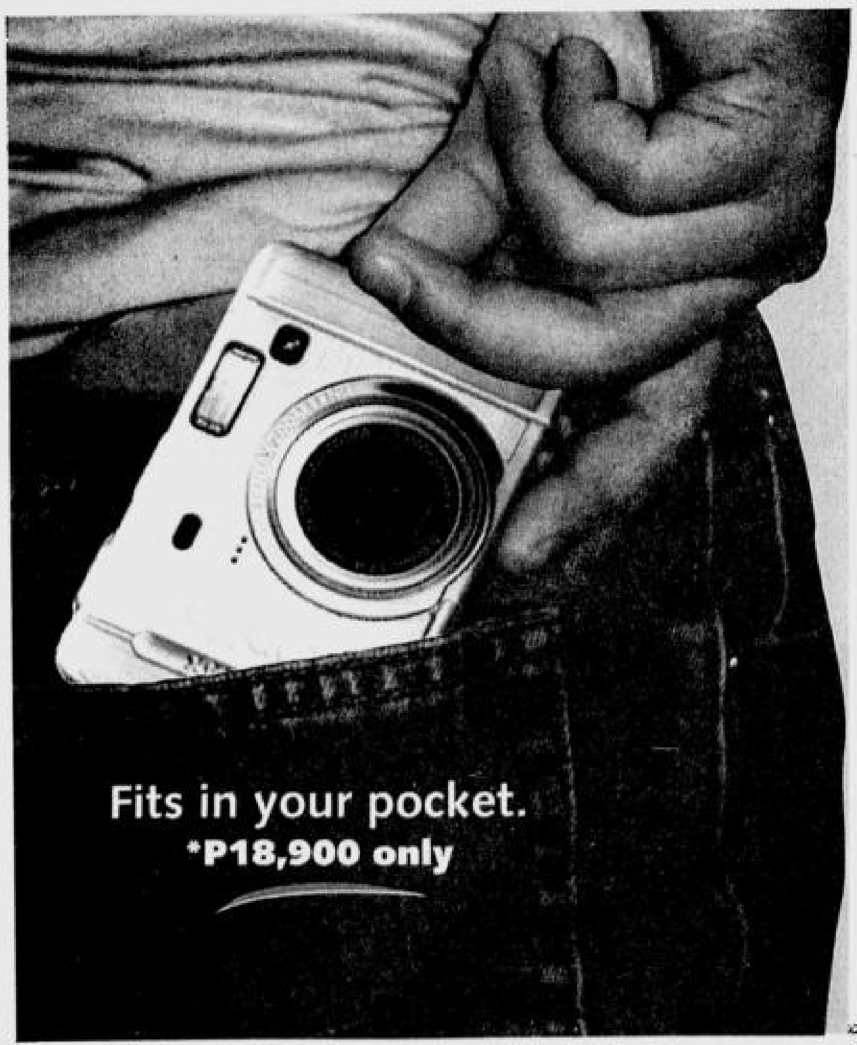
But Jesus spoke up, "Leave her alone. Was she not keeping it for the day of my burial? (The poor you always have with you, but you will not always have me.)"

Many Jews heard that Jesus was there and they came, not only because of Jesus, but also to see Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests thought about killing Lazarus as well, for many of the Jews were drifting away because of him and believing in Jesus.

Commentary

These are the last days of Jesus. This is the last Sabbath evening meal, prepared by Martha (who has sent her servants away to serve Jesus in gratitude for Lazarus' life). And Mary, the other sister, takes perfume worth a year's wages and anoints Jesus' feet, in homage and thankfulness. They know that now even Lazarus is in the same danger of betrayal and death as Jesus because of his closeness to him. And Judas balks at the attention and the extravagant display of passion towards Jesus. But Jesus defends her and sets her up as a model for all those who wish to do for him what their hearts cry out for—and that the poor are Jesus' gift-his own person—so that whatever we want to do for him, for God's sake, now—do for the poor. Waste at least a year's wages on them and God will take it as wasted lovingly on his own person. It is a tense night—are we for or against Jesus, the poor he befriends and those he brings back from the dead. Today is a day to choose.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

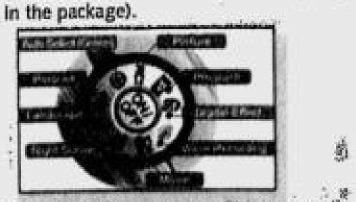


PENTAX
Optio S50

Capture images at a high 5.0 megapixel resolution-the new standard!

The Optio S50 uses Pentax advance 3x optical zoom technology, which allows continuous optical zooming even while recording unlimited movie. Combine it with the built-in digital zoom to achieve stunning magnification. Pentax Optio S50 allows you to view your images instantly on its large 1.8in. LCD monitor.

Professional looking portraits, landscapes, sports, food and special effects are easily achieved using the 20-scene mode feature. This feature includes the silent "No-Flash, Steady Shutter" Museum mode and the spying "Text-Copy" mode. The Optio S50 is powered by Lithium CRV3 battery or the widely available AA-sized batteries (rechargeable battery set and charger included in the package).



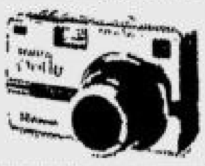
All these technological convenience fit into a small, aluminum compact-body, staying new and elegant to keep up with your multi-season lifestyle.

The Pentax Optio S50. Fits your pocket. Fits your lifestyle.

Exif Print PictBridge

*Comes with 128 MB SD Card and leather case.

Optio 750z
- 7.0 megapixel
- 5x optical zoom
- 40x total zoom
- Swivel Brightness Adjustable LCD
- Includes 256 MB SD card and case
- SRP P37,900



Optio SV
- 5.0 megapixel
- 5x optical zoom
- 20x total zoom
- 1.8in. LCD
- Includes 256 MB SD card and case
- SRP P25,900

NCR: All SM Dept. Stores-Camera Section • Camerahaus: Makati, Glorietta 1, Cybermall Libis, Southmall • Automatic Center: Market Market, Greenbelt, Gateway • Electronic Boutique: Rustan's • 5th Avenue: Alabang Town Center • Complink: SM North Edsa, Park Square, Galleria • Kameraworld: Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, SM North Edsa, SM Manila, SM Megamall, Harrison Plaza, Greenbelt, Ermita, Southmall • Island Photo: SM Megamall, Park Square, Southmall • Mayer: Quiapo • Microsation: Galleria, SM North Edsa • Photoline: Ermita, SM Manila, Galleria, Glorietta • Provincial: SM Dept. Stores: Batangas, Lucena, Baguio, Manila • Dagupan PhotoKing • Vision Photo: Dagupan City • Fines Studio: Baguio City • Maxi Photo: Baguio City • Sunshine Kodak Express: Baguio City • Tiongsan Harrison: Baguio City • AK Fotohaus: Santiago City • Unibank Mktg.: Santiago City • Camerahaus: SM Iloilo • Color Vision: Iloilo • Colour Profile: Iloilo City • Manhattan Color Lab: Bacolod City • Lopue's Color Lab: Bacolod City • Hans Ofc Trading: Tacloban City • New Stylish Express: Tacloban City • Colours Foto Shop: SM Cebu, Ayala, Colon, Mactan • Agfa Color House: Cagayan de Oro City • Gaisano City: Cagayan de Oro City • Cagayan Photo Center • Colorshot: Butuan City • Photo House Lab: Davao • Gaisano Mall: Davao City

Above Pentax Camera is supported by a one year parts & labor warranty card issued by Super East Asia Enterprise, Inc. manned by a Pentax Japan-trained staff. For inquiries contact 0922-324-3240

‘Auring’ ruins ₱21M in crops, roads in E. Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—Tropical storm “Auring” destroyed more than P21 million worth of farm products and infrastructure in Eastern Visayas.

Wilson Cerbito, assistant regional director of the Department of Agriculture, said around P11.7 million worth of farm products were destroyed when Auring hit the region on Wednesday.

Rice farms lost P3.9 million worth of projected harvests in 1,465 hectares of land covering the towns of Palo, Tanauan, Mayorga, Tabon-Tabon, Burauen, Capoocan, Dagami and Sta. Fe in Leyte.

Other agricultural losses included banana (P1.4 million), abaca (P3.1 million), corn (P242,000) and fishery (P2.9 million).

Cerbito said Guiuan in Eastern Samar suffered the biggest fishery loss at P2 million.

The regional Department of Public Works and Highways reported to the Office of Civil Defense-Eastern Visayas (OCD-8) that Auring damaged P9.8 million worth of national and provincial highways in Biliran (P2.9 million) and Southern Leyte (P6.9 million).

OCD-8 director Adriano Fuego said eight fishermen from Tarangan, Eastern Samar, whose boat capsized at around 9 p.m. on Wednesday, were rescued and reunited with their families. They were earlier reported to have died.

One of their companions, who was not identified, remained missing.

Fuego said the fishermen were on board the FB Ofelia, reportedly owned by Tarangan Mayor Emily Olaje, when they encountered big waves spawned by Auring on their way to Surigao. They were rescued by the passing MB Angelita, a motorized passenger boat. *Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Calamity state declared in S. Kudarat dry areas

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The mild dry spell experienced in many areas in southwestern Mindanao is taking its toll on farmers.

In Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat alone, P10.7 million worth of crops in 10 barangays have been damaged, prompting local officials to place the entire town under a state of calamity.

A total of 845 hectares of farmland have been affected by the drought, said Mayor Ramon Abalos. Most residents of Lambayong are rice and corn farmers.

Abalos said the town council declared the calamity state and approved the release of a P2-million fund to arrest the damage. He, however, said the amount was not enough, considering the extent of the damage.

Abalos said in a radio interview here that the initial effects of the dry spell were felt in February. Since then, at least half of the town’s rice and corn crops have been destroyed.

At least 10 of the 26 villages of Lambayong are experiencing inadequate supply of water from the National Irrigation Administration, he added.

The calamity fund, which is 20 percent of the total allocation for the year, will be used to assist farmers planting alternative crops, Abalos explained.

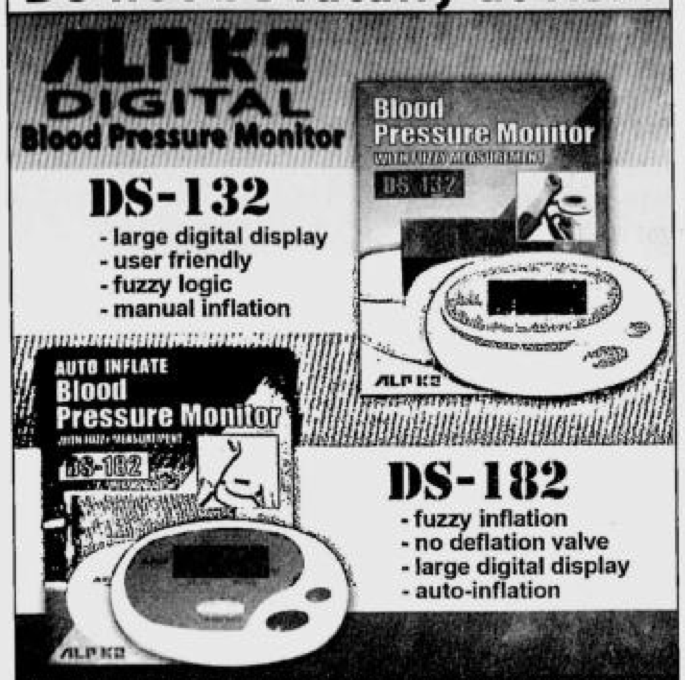
An advisory issued by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) noted that areas with below normal rainfall for two consecutive months risked suffering from drought.

The Department of Agriculture estimated that 52,000 ha of high-value crops, such as rice and corn, might have been damaged by the dry spell in South Cotabato.

A DA report also showed that more than 15,000 ha of rice and corn fields had been affected in Bukidnon and 3,108 ha in Misamis Oriental.

The DA office in Southwestern Mindanao has already allocated an initial P1.8 million for cloud-seeding operation.

The region is composed of the provinces of South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani, and the cities of General Santos, Koronadal, Tacurong, Cotabato and Kidapawan. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



Preventive Health Maintenance
Do not be fatally at risk!
ALP K2 DIGITAL Blood Pressure Monitor
DS-132
- large digital display
- user friendly
- fuzzy logic
- manual inflation
DS-182
- fuzzy inflation
- no deflation valve
- large digital display
- auto-inflation
Visit our Showroom at the 2nd floor, Mercury Drug Glorietta 3, Makati City
Exclusively Distributed by:
medical center trading corporation
Pioneer St., Cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Tels. 631-1715; 631-9355; 637-9504 Fax (632) 631-7869
E-mail Address: medcen@info.com.ph
Pasig City (02) 631-1715 · Manila City (02) 711-8374 · Cebu City (032) 254-2367 · Davao City (082) 222-4404 · Iloilo City (033) 320-1413 · Lipa City (043) 757-2051 · Pampanga (045) 901-7892 · Pangasinan (075) 568-7390
Available at mercury drug Stores Nationwide

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!
JUST OFF THE PRESS!
JUDICIAL REVIEW OF CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS: CASES AND MATERIALS
2004 Edition
By: Vicente V. Mendoza
Former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court
Professorial Lecturer, U.P. College of Law

In this pioneering work, Justice Mendoza draws on his experience as a member of the Supreme Court, appellate advocate, and professor of law in examining the nature of the power of judicial review and the requirements for its exercise. The publication of this book is timely especially in these days when the Supreme Court is frequently in the news for its decisions which have impact on the political and economic life of the country.

The book features –
- Carefully selected and edited cases
- Copious notes and comments by the author and by selected authorities to provide perspective and stimulate discussion
- Clear presentation of the subject
- Table of Contents showing the relationship of the topics discussed
- Table of Cases
- Detailed Index
- Excellent format and typography
- Deluxe binding

“[A] treasure chest of insights and lessons... [A]ddressed to law students, it is just as useful to professors and lawyers, especially those who... practice in the Supreme Court. [E]qually valuable to justices of our High Court.”
– Justice Artemio V. Panganiban
Supreme Court of the Philippines

Available at all:
REX BOOK STORE, INC.

ROUNDUP

5 nabbed for cybersex

BAGUIO CITY—Two Australians and five women were arrested by policemen in Abra last week for allegedly running a cybersex den. Peter Frederick Hall, 54, and Henzemerlign Jurgen, 49, both from Victoria, Australia, were arrested on March 11 in Zone 6 in Bangued, Abra. Also arrested were Precy Bulaay Hall, wife of Peter; and Generosa, Elma, Concesa and Abigail Bulaay. They were accused of violating Republic Act No. 9208 or the anti-trafficking in persons act. Supt. Romeo Aspe, Cordillera police spokesperson, said their investigations showed that the Australians were proposing marriage to Bangued women but would later be asking them to work in their cybersex den. Seized from the suspects were computers, receipts and pornographic video materials. Judge Francisco Ante Jr. of the municipal trial court in Vigan City issued the arrest warrant. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

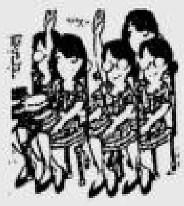
Rebels deny killing lieutenant

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—New People’s Army rebels operating in Pampanga on Thursday denied that they were behind the killing of an Army lieutenant, as the military had claimed. The NPA unit’s commander, reached through a source, said members of the Salaguinto Gang killed 2nd Lt. Jerry Morado of the 70th Infantry Battalion on Tuesday. But Lt. Col. Preme Monta, public information chief of the military’s Northern Luzon Command, dismissed the NPA claim as propaganda. Monta said Morado, 30, was gunned down in Barangay Sapang Uwak, Porac while negotiating for the surrender of a rebel in that town. Monta said one Eduardo Abuque, alias Ka Ruel, led six armed men in the attack. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Transport strike in Quezon

LUCENA CITY—Passenger jeepneys deserted the city streets on Wednesday to protest the series of oil price increases. Tonton Chavez, president of the Pinagsama-samang Asosasyon ng Tsuper and Operator sa Timog Katagalugan, called on the government to scrap the Oil Deregulation Law. “That law is the culprit behind this never-ending gasoline price increases,” he said. The military dispatched several trucks to ferry the stranded passengers, said Maj. Jose Broso, spokesperson of the military’s Southern Luzon Command. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

English curriculum program OKd



CITY OF CALAPAN—The provincial school board has approved a curriculum development program that will enhance teachers’ competence in teaching English, Math and Science, with English as the medium of instruction. Olivia Palomaria, provincial government consultant for planning and development, said the program needed P573,000, which would come from the Special Education Fund of the local government. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Aliva Clark Marcelo, 83

ALIVA Clark Marcelo, mother-in law of Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn and Vice Mayor Cecil Bayron, died yesterday. She was 83 years old. Married to the late Benito J. Marcelo, she is survived by children, Ellen and Edward; Cely Marcelo, wife of Benito Jr. (deceased); Benjie; Tessie, wife of Aggie Maslog (deceased); Girlie and Cecil; Anette; Boy and Imelda; Bernard and Meriam; 26 grandchildren and 22 great grand children. Her body lies at the Marcelo residence on Del Pilar and Malvar streets in Puerto Princesa. Interment details will be announced later.

Int’l Women’s Day tragedy

BULALACAO, Oriental Mindoro—The president of the Rural Improvement Club in Barangay Milagros in this southernmost town of Oriental Mindoro died of cardiac arrest after dancing the “Sayaw Kikay,” a song popularized by the all-female group Viva Hot Babes, during the celebration of International Women’s Day on March 8. Municipal social welfare development officer Lenie Embile said the victim, Mayet Asedor, 39 sat down after dancing and then died. Embile said they didn’t know that Asedor was sick. “It was her first time to dance, she was the star dancer,” the social worker added. Asedor’s husband, a barangay councilor who was watching the show, brought her to the hospital but she was pronounced dead on arrival. Embile said the MSWDO shouldered Asedor’s funeral expenses. *Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

MNLF ‘old guard’ dies

COTABATO CITY—An official of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), who was considered one of the rebel group’s old guards, died of cardiac arrest here on Tuesday morning. MNLF Brig. Gen. Alfatah Abubakar, 63, regional secretary of the Department of Science and Technology in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (DOST-ARMM), died at around 8:20 a.m at the Notre Dame Hospital. Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema, also MNLF secretary general, said Abubakar complained of chest pains and difficulty in breathing early Monday. Abubakar was among the pioneering members of the MNLF, being part of the so-called MNLF Batch 90 that received training in foreign countries. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

SUZUKI
ITO ANG PANAHON
NG PAGBIBIGAY-DAAN.
A ROAD SAFETY REMINDER THIS HOLY WEEK FROM SUZUKI.
SUZUKI PHILIPPINES, INCORPORATED [illegible]

XL.7
GRAND VITARA
VITARA
Jimny
BRAVO LD
GS125
GS175
X4

Big ferry firm worries Boracay boat men

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Hundreds of ferry boat owners and workers servicing passengers between the Caticlan jetty Port in the Aklan mainland to Boracay would lose their livelihood because of the entry of a Manila-based ferry service provider, the head of the cooperative of the ferry boat operators and crew said.

Godofredo Sadiasa, chair of the Caticlan-Boracay Transport Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CBTMPC), said the entry of Magsaysay Maritime Corp. (MMC) would deprive income to around 500 families dependent on the operations of 84 small motorized outrigger boats ferrying passengers to the island.

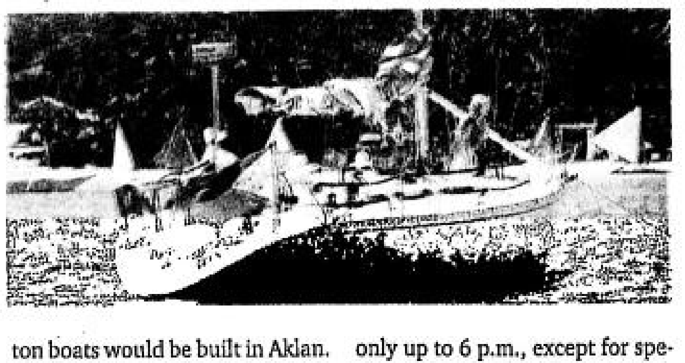
"It will kill us," Sadiasa said in a telephone interview.

He said the daily operation of a ferry boat earns around P2,500, which is evenly divided between the owner and the crew. But they stand to lose this income with the entry of the MMC ferries.

MMC board chair Eduardo Manese on March 11 signed a memorandum of understanding with Aklan officials to provide ferry boat service to the island-resort. The signing was witnessed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

MMC will initially provide four steel-hulled ferry boats with a 75-passenger capacity under its P150-million project set to be implemented in the last quarter of this year.

Manese said each of the 100-ton boats would be built in Aklan. The vessels, costing P10 million to P15 million, will be equipped with lighting facilities for night travel and capable of operating even during the windy season.



At present, motorized outrigger boats carrying 20 to 30 passengers transport tourists to and from the island. The services are only up to 6 p.m., except for special or emergency trips.

Manese said the bigger boats would accommodate the increasing number of passengers to the island, which has reached an average of 2,000 daily.

But Sadiasa said their cooperative has already invested in a 60-seater ferry boat costing P2.5 million. They also plan to bring in a P2.3 million 50-seat craft for tourists.

"We were not given a chance to prove that we could provide the services that MMC plans to bring in," said Sadiasa.

He said the local government should give priority to the interests of the residents instead of big companies. "Why favor MMC at the detriment of the small ferry-boat operators and crew who are from Malay town?"

He said bringing in many modern and fast crafts in Boracay is impractical because the island is just a 10-minute ride from the jetty port in Barangay Caticlan.

He also pointed out that tourists preferred the small boats because they complimented the tropical ambiance of the island.

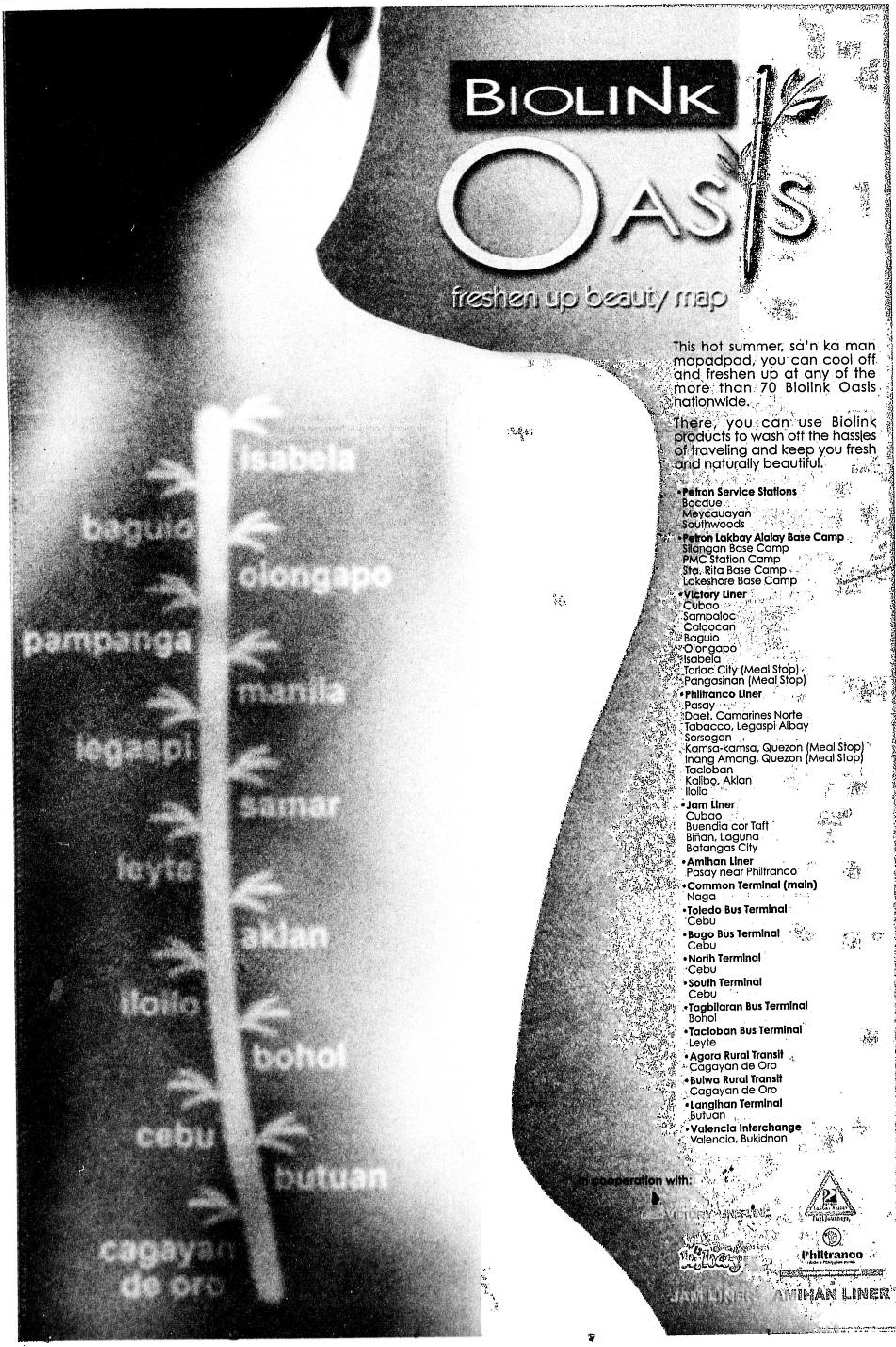
But Aklan Gov. Carlito Marquez said the cooperatives members have nothing to fear.

"The market is so big and there are many local tourists who would ride in the motorized bancas," Marquez said in a telephone interview.

He said the investors were needed to upgrade the services to meet the increasing number of tourists going to the island.

Tourist arrivals to the island increased by 26 percent last year from 339,434 in 2003 to 428,755 last year. This was the highest percentage growth in five years.

Tourists poured in P7.88 billion to the economy last year, 26.31 percent more than the P6.24 billion recorded in 2003.



This hot summer, sa'n ka man mapadpad, you can cool off and freshen up at any of the more than 70 Biolink Oasis nationwide.

There, you can use Biolink products to wash off the hassles of traveling and keep you fresh and naturally beautiful.

- **Petron Service Stations**
  Bocaue
  Meycauayan
  Southwoods
- **Petron Lakbay Alalay Base Camp**
  Silangan Base Camp
  PMC Station Camp
  Sta. Rita Base Camp
  Lakeshore Base Camp
- **Victory Liner**
  Cubao
  Sampaloc
  Caloocan
  Baguio
  Olongapo
  Isabela
  Tarlac City (Meal Stop)
  Pangasinan (Meal Stop)
- **Philtranco Liner**
  Pasay
  Daet, Camarines Norte
  Tabacco, Legaspi Albay
  Sorsogon
  Kamsa-kamsa, Quezon (Meal Stop)
  Inang Amang, Quezon (Meal Stop)
  Tacloban
  Kalibo, Aklan
  Iloilo
- **Jam Liner**
  Cubao
  Buendia cor Taft
  Biñan, Laguna
  Batangas City
- **Amihan Liner**
  Pasay near Philtranco
- **Common Terminal (main)**
  Naga
- **Toledo Bus Terminal**
  Cebu
- **Bogo Bus Terminal**
  Cebu
- **North Terminal**
  Cebu
- **South Terminal**
  Cebu
- **Tagbilaran Bus Terminal**
  Bohol
- **Tacloban Bus Terminal**
  Leyte
- **Agora Rural Transit**
  Cagayan de Oro
- **Bulwa Rural Transit**
  Cagayan de Oro
- **Langihan Terminal**
  Butuan
- **Valencia Interchange**
  Valencia, Bukidnon

Airline flights to Lanao pushed

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—The provincial government has appealed to commercial airlines in the country to reopen flights in Baloi Airport in order to provide a convenient link of local products to market centers.

Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo said the restoration of the commercial flights would be a big boost to the economy, not only of Iligan City and the province, but also of northwestern Mindanao.

At present, air traffic of goods and passengers from Zamboanga del Sur, Misamis Occidental and Lanao del Norte to Manila is facilitated by flights in Cagayan de Oro City.

"This takes about three to five hours of travel by land, while the flight takes only an hour." Dimaporo noted. "Isn't it ridiculous?"

An alternative air route is in Dipolog City, which also takes a similar toll from a land trip.

Woes

Airline flights in the Baloi Airport stopped in 1994 following the termination by Philippine Airlines of its commercially nonviable or "missionary flights" as a result of the company's financial woes. Along with this was the cancellation of PAL flights to Ozamiz.

The flight cancellations fell heavily on the trading of fish products, such as shrimps and crabs from the aquamarine-rich Panguil Bay to customers in Manila.

Previously, these products reach Manila within the day.

Using alternative air routes made transportation costly and cumbersome.

Located 15 kilometers from Iligan, the Baloi Airport has a concrete runway 1,400 meters long and 18 meters wide. Its taxiway is 45 meters wide and 93 meters long.

Last December, Southeast Asian Airlines (SEAir) flew in a light aircraft in time for the airport's reopening. Many saw the flight as the company's show of interest in serving the Baloi route.

Based in the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga, SEAir maintains three routes in Mindanao—Siargao, Cagayan de Oro and Davao. *Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Women welfare a concern among bets for ARMM gov

By Nash Maulana
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Women's welfare should be a common concern among gubernatorial wannabes in the Aug. 8 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, according to women's rights advocates in the region.

The Notre Dame University's Institute of Strategic Studies and Initiatives said that because of this issue, civil society groups were testing the waters for women as candidates for the ARMM's Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA), to aim for the speaker's post. Some groups were even considering fielding a woman candidate for governor.

Other Moro women's groups raised concerns over women's welfare in the coming regional polls with some prospective candidates showing "early signs of toughness" on women, while others, they said, were known for being "womanizers."

Prefer a woman

One of the gubernatorial hopefuls, Mayor Zaldy Uy Ampatuan of Shariff Aguak town in Maguindanao said he would prefer a woman for a vice gubernatorial running mate, if he was selected from the 13 aspirants that Malacañang had asked to submit their programs of government for the ARMM.

The Palace selection committee, chaired by Secretary Teresita Deles, President Macapagal-Arroyo's peace adviser, has also requested ARMM Social Welfare Secretary Bainon Karon to submit her own plans for regional governance, as possible administration candidate for the ARMM gubernatorial race.

Widowed by the war in the 70s, Karon is the only Muslim woman who holds the rank of brigadier general in the Moro National Liberation Front Reserved Force.

But the list of possible candidates invited by the Palace consists mainly of males.

Possible candidates

This includes Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin and Dimas Pundato, former executive director of the Office of Muslim Affairs, both former MNLF officials;

Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema, RLA Speaker Hatimil Hasan and Marawi City Mayor Omar Ali, who are all members of the MNLF Council of 15 that ousted Nur Misuari as MNLF chair; Ibrahim Paglas III, a former town mayor-turned businessman, Tawi-Tawi Assemblyman Esmael Abubakar Jr., and Dr. Mahid Mutilan, incumbent ARMM vice governor and former ARMM Education secretary.

In recent conferences on women in Mindanao, Muslim women said they would be critical in choosing candidates and discard among them those they deemed "oppressive" of women's rights.

Consultation process

They said their own consultation process would involve women of the teaching profession, who "bravely brought to Congress" the issue of nonremittance of government insurance premium deductions that is now besetting the ARMM's Department of Education.

In one of these conferences, Prof. Yasmin Bushran of the Mindanao State University also alerted women about the passage of a dress code ordinance for women in her native Marawi.

She said women in Mindanao she had talked with blamed Mayor Ali for the women's dress code ordinance, which critical Muslim women consider the "ordnance ordinance."

Like the proverbial "When in Rome"—the City Dress-Code Ordinance Ali signed into local law late last year prescribes the wearing of *abaya* (long, loose and thick) dress and *hijab* (veil) by women of all tribes and religions when they are in Marawi.

Bicol NGOs push for responsible parenthood

LEGAZPI CITY—An alliance of nongovernment organizations campaigning for reproductive health and family planning here are pushing for the approval of House Bill 3773, otherwise known as the Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act, and Senate Bill 3234.

The Bicol Reproductive Heath Alliance (Birha) with members including the Mayon Integrated Development Alternative and Services (Midas), Aide for AIDS, Bicol Reproductive Health Information Network, Coastal Community Resources and Livelihood Development Inc., Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, Media for Development and Integrated Advancement, and Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, together with the Commission on Population V (Popcom V), rallied behind the House bill authored by several representatives, including Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman and Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla.

Cristita Triunfante, executive director of Midas and Birha chair, said the House bill is an integral part of the government's drive to uplift the country's economy.

"What this bill advocates are sound means to improve the population condition and the quality of our human resource, which is crucial to economic development," Triunfante said.

The bill is not detrimental to the morals of the people, as what the Church would like to convey, she said.

"[It] just promotes responsible parenthood and ways to control the population boom and the people are not required to strictly comply with the suggested means," she said.

Remulla said during a meeting with the press here, that the bill will help hasten the country's economic growth.

Triunfante said reproductive health awareness in Bicol region was very minimal, compared with other regions, and that contraceptive usage was very low despite the active information dissemination campaign of the regional health office.

"Opposition from the Church and the culture of conservatism hamper the success of the reproductive health campaign and this results in higher incidence of teenage pregnancy and abortion," she said.

Bicol's annual population growth rate stood at 2.11 percent, with the population doubling in about 40 years, health records show.

Bicol's total population as of 2000 census was 4.7 million. The National Economic Development Authority said the Bicol region is the second poorest region in the Philippines and the region with the largest number of poor families. *Jed Ll. Bacason, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Farmer smells anomaly in project

GOA, Camarines Sur—A farmer-leader here has accused the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) of shortchanging farmers on a P3-million road resurfacing and de-silting project implemented last year.

Francis Jesalva, Culasi Irrigators Development Cooperative chair, said on Monday the total work done could not even be paid for P700,000.

"There was no actual de-silting and resurfacing done but it was only graded and leveled, with the contractor visiting the area only twice," Jesalva alleged.

But Emiliano Panganiban, the NIA engineer who supervised the work, denied the allegation and said the work on the road and the canal of the Cagaycay River Irrigation System had been accomplished according to project specifications.

Panganiban said the work they had done could have been eroded after months so that the road and the de-silting of the canal seemed to remain unchanged.

He said it had been inspected and it passed the requirements in the program of work.

Jesalva said it was obvious that the work on the road had not been done properly because the grass growth in the middle of the 3-km road remained and that the silt in the canal was the same as it was before.

He said the NIA had also violated the regulation of payment that, he claimed, had split it up into three payments, which violated government regulations. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Life Rx
from Dr. Ricardo Fernandez

Get to know ANTIOXIDANT CoQ10

Why the excitement over CoQ10?
Scientists and medical practitioners are excited over Coenzyme Q10 or CoQ10 since its discovery by Professor Karl Folkers. It is a naturally occurring enzyme that shows a wide range of health and life longevity benefits.

What can CoQ10 do?
It has been found that CoQ10 helps cells produce energy used for life-giving functions such as giving the heart the power to pump blood all over the body 24 hours a day, 7 days in a week. Not only that, CoQ10 also helps reduce blood viscosity allowing for its easier flow through the arteries and veins. It gives energy to the heart and promotes the smooth flow of blood to help prevent heart attack and stroke.

CoQ10 as an antioxidant.
CoQ10 is also an efficient antioxidant that hunts down free radicals responsible for damaging cells and causing certain cancers, premature aging and other diseases. CoQ10 does this by neutralizing free radicals thereby rendering them harmless.

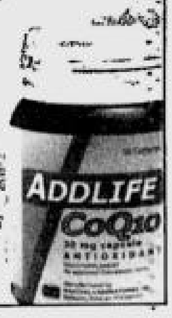
Can reduced amounts of CoQ10 affect health?
CoQ10 is a natural substance in the body. However, once you reach the age of 23, the amount of CoQ10 starts to fall due to lifestyle choices and stress from environmental and even personal causes. It has been observed that an inadequate supply of CoQ10 can have adverse effects on the body. It is also noted that people with cancer have very low blood levels of CoQ10 in their system. That is why CoQ10 is popularly used to supplement existing cancer therapy. Owing to its energy giving ability and antioxidant action, it has been consistently observed that low CoQ10 levels equates to poor health.

How do you get CoQ10 supplementation?
CoQ10 has been synthesized in its pure form and is widely used as a nutritional supplement and additional therapy to heart and cancer patients. In the Philippines, CoQ10 is available as AddLife CoQ10. Each capsule contains 30mg pure CoQ10 that can be taken everyday without any known side effect or allergy since it is a natural substance.

This is for educational purposes only and is not meant to replace your doctor's advice. Ask your doctor for more information or you can call the AddLife Hotline at 920-1911

Dr. Ricardo O. Fernandez finished his Doctor of Medicine at the University of Sto. Tomas. He is a consultant at the Makati Medical Center and Associate Board Examiner of the Philippine Board of Otolaryngology.

Available at all mercury drug stores and other leading drugstores nationwide



JVC
Mar. 13 - Apr. 3
FREE
Plus! Free 2,000 Metro Gift Certificate
GZ-MC100U
P69,989
Cash Only
Plus! Free 3,000 Metro Gift Certificate
GZ-MC200U
P74,989
Cash Only
cameraMAGIC
GR-DX95U
P54,989
Cash Only
Plus! Free 1,000 Metro Gift Certificate
GR-D270U
P32,989
Cash Only
GR-D290U
P36,989
Cash Only
GR-D230
P45,990
Cash Only
Here's how to get to METRO MARKET! MARKET!
0% Interest
citibank PayLite (Cebu only)
Equitable PCI (Cebu & Luzon Area)
METROBANK (Cebu only)
METRO
G·A·I·S·A·N·O

www.makro.com.ph
makro FRESH CUTS!
Offers available from March 21 - 28, 2005 | Available in Makro Luzon Stores only!
Watch out for the EASTER EGG Promo!
/kg
Rompe Fillet
P149/kg
Hoki
P149/kg
Blue Whiting
/kg
Tilapia Medium
P125/kg
Pusit Bisaya
P199/kg
Shrimp Ring
Buy One Take One!
Frozen Strawberry
/per pack
CHAMYTO All Flavors 80mlx5
P30 makro VOUCHER @ 5 packs
/kg
Potato County
Buy One Take One!
Special Sandwich Bread 450g
29
For easy membership application, visit makro outlets.

'Field of Faith' offers solitude, rosary garden

NONTRADITIONAL symbols of the rosary are divided by an 800-meter path of the "Field of Faith" garden in Calauan, Laguna, which opened last month.

From page A1

tivity, it took a while before she finally had a routine check-up with only daughter Carissa in tow. The consultation turned out to be a life-changing moment.

"When the doctor came out and asked me, 'Where's your father?' I knew right away that it wasn't good news," Carissa recalls that afternoon in July 2003.

After a series of tests, mother and daughter were both stunned by the doctor's prognosis—a growth had been found in Moonyeen's colon and an operation had to be done immediately. Surgery was performed and soon after, the diagnosis—Stage 4 cancer, both in the colon and the liver. Suddenly, Moonyeen found her world turned upside down and the whole Singson family reeled from what had just hit them.

Within the month, the family flew to Singapore for treatment. At the Johns Hopkins Cancer Center at the National University Hospital, Moonyeen received chemotherapy for the next 10 months.

Closer

Not once, she says, did she fear that she was going to die. "It never entered my mind. Yes, there were days that I would feel down but generally I hung on and enjoyed the days when the effects of the chemo were not so bad."

Living away from Manila brought the family together. "We became close in ways that would not have been possible if we had stayed in Manila," Moonyeen recalls.

Husband Gabby, sons Jay and Gerard, and her sister Michotte would take turns watching over her, in Singapore but it was daughter Carissa who became her constant companion.

"She would read to me, entertain me and just be there. I think the illness took more of a toll on her than it did on me," Moonyeen says.

Healing garden

Cancer is a difficult, uphill battle both for the patient and the main caregiver. The idea for the "Field of Faith" is what helped pull mother, daughter and the family through.

"My sister, who is based in Toronto, told me about this beautiful, healing garden owned by an Italian family on the outskirts of Toronto that people of all denominations would go to and pray. The Stations of the Cross were nailed to some trees and this is where people would pray. Crutches left by those who could already walk were evidence of the healing. When Carissa and I heard about it, we thought that this was something we wanted to do," Moonyeen recalls.

"With nothing to do in between chemo sessions, we mulled over it and decided that we wanted a similar garden but with a happier, friendlier approach."

Returning to Manila ahead of her mother, Carissa started the legwork for the Field of Faith early in 2004. Laying the groundwork on her grandfather Isidro Retizos' property in Laguna, she went about building God's garden. Since Moonyeen could not do the actual physical work, Carissa hired a team to take care of slowly setting it up.

"We really started with a bare field. We put in electricity and water pipes, tilled the land, built the path, built the structures. It continues to be a work in progress," Carissa says.

Place of solitude

Last month, the Singson family opened the Field of Faith in Calauan, Laguna, to friends and people seeking a place of solitude and prayer.

The central part of the garden is a chapel and an 800-meter path divided into nontraditional symbols of the rosary. The Sorrowful Mystery is depicted in wooden installations, luminous in a glass and cement cross at the top of the hill, the Joyful in resin and metal, and the Glorious etched in granite in the chapel.

Along the path are meditation spots where one can sit quietly and reflect on the beauty of nature and of God's word with the sound of a manmade brook in the property.

"A borderless sanctuary where people of all faith can come and just be with the Divine Healer is really my vision for the Field of Faith," Moonyeen explains.

"My health crisis really became meaningful not only to me but to the entire family as well. I found myself looking deeper into myself. We also learned to appreciate each other more, and in the grand scheme of things, we started becoming more appreciative of God's generosity toward us."

Walk through the valley

A life-changing illness always makes one's focus and priorities clearer and one's faith in a Supreme Being only stronger. Moonyeen says this is what she has learned, in addition to having more compassion for the sick and being more attuned to one's inner self.

"I read somewhere that when the sun of our life is up, it is very easy to believe in God and trust in His power and love. When it is down, it really becomes difficult, but it is a sign that He wants us to grow stronger in our faith and readies us for great designs that He has in store for us."

Moonyeen also says that while she was sick, she realized how important it was to send a letter, a token or a flower to someone ill. "In the past, I would be so uneasy around my sick friends and choose to stay away. Since I got sick, I realized how important it was to be there for someone who is ill."

Moonyeen, who is now in remission, hopes that the Field of Faith will become a place of solitude for people who walk its path.

"We all need a place where we can rest, escape, just be alone with our Creator and our thoughts. Part of healing oneself is knowing what one wants deep inside, hearing His voice and honoring the deepest part of ourselves," she says.

Moonyeen, a woman who found herself and her faith again, hopes that others who are searching, will find God, too, in the garden. After all, He not only carried Moonyeen and her family through the valley, He gave them comfort.

For more information about the Field of Faith, please call Nene Quintos, 0919-378-1664 or 721-0081, or email field_of_faith@yahoo.com

A CHAPEL lies in the "borderless sanctuary."

Huwag ipilit
kumain ng sipit...
sa allergy, ika'y
mamimilipit.
Cetirizine
Zyrtec
Cetirizine
Zyrtec®
Doctor recommended
Quick and safe relief for allergies
No other allergy medicine is doctor-approved to treat more allergies than Zyrtec. Just one dose gives 24-hour, no-drowse relief.
Lots of allergies. Just one Zyrtec.
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

The healing touch of Father Momoy

From page A1

Gabby Lopez, ABS-CBN president, came to see him late last year. This was confirmed by residents of Bonga. It was also learned that Father Momoy would usually go to the ABS-CBN office in Quezon City to have a healing session with Lopez.

The priest refused to name other prominent people he has cured.

"What matters most is that they have experienced God's healing love and grace," said the 54-year-old priest. "The true healer is God. I'm just one of His instruments."

First healing

Several years ago, Father Momoy was assigned to the far-flung area of Ligao, now a city. He went to administer the last sacraments to a dying old man.

Local residents had thought the old man would never recover. In fact, according to Father Momoy, a coffin was already placed beside the bed, waiting to take the man away.

Father Momoy had already left when the residents excitedly called him back. A "miracle" had happened, they informed him. The old man was alive.

"I thought it was a joke because when I left, the man was already dead. No pulse, no sign of life," he said.

But when he went back to the house, the man was very healthy and showed no sign of illness.

Father Momoy's life as a healer had thus begun.

Humble beginnings

As a child, he dreamed of becoming a priest. His parents were not opposed to the idea and he enrolled in Bicol's foremost minor seminary in Panal, Tabaco City. He finished his AB Philosophy at the Divine Word College in Legazpi City.

During the Marcos regime, he became an activist and was almost arrested during a students' rally at the Albay Peñaranda Park. Thanks to the late Bishop Teotimo Pacis, he was instead put under "house arrest" and later "exiled" to Tambongan, Viga, Catanduanes.

He continued his activism there until he was ordained priest of the SOLT on March 26, 1979 at the Saint Stephen's Parish Church in Ligao.

Priest and doctor

Father Momoy started his missionary work and soon became the founding parish priest of both Cagraray and neighboring Batan Island. The two islands were inaccessible, without doctors or hospitals.

"I do not know how I acquired this gift, but when sick people came to stay in my little chapel, I began to do some extra priestly or missionary work. Since there was no hospital in the islands, no doctors, or medicines, I tried to heal them without really thinking that I could heal them," he said.

To his surprise, people started to get well. Local folk began to see him not only as their parish priest but also their doctor.

"People were amazed with what I had done but for me, I considered it simply as contemplative missionary work," he said.

Father Momoy admitted that at the time, he never gave attention to his healing touch. He had no idea that he was given a special gift and a special mission.

Doctor recommended

Even doctors tell their terminally ill patients to go to Bonga for a cure.

Dr. Philip Tan of Novaliches, Metro Manila, and Dr. Pinky Bakleg of Cagayan de Oro City, whose patients have cancer, claimed that Father Momoy allegedly had X-ray vision which was more accurate than the hospital's magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

According to them, the priest could "see" which organ of the body was affected and needed treatment. His hands reportedly functioned like a detector and could tell which part of the body had a problem.

During a healing session, Father Momoy would advise a patient to remove his mobile phone and wristwatch as they could be damaged by the "spiritual magnetic energy."

Busy healer

SOLT's Sr. Maria Fe Aycardo, who also has a healing gift, acknowledged Father Momoy's amazing powers: "His healing touches are indeed very powerful. God must have chosen him for this noble mission."

Father Momoy has a hectic schedule. Aside from his Friday healing sessions in Bonga, Saturdays, he goes to the Divine Mercy Church in Novaliches for more healing services.

On Sundays, he is at the University of the Philippines for special contemplative services.

He devotes Tuesdays until Thursdays to both contemplative and social action services in different villages and far-flung areas in the region.

WPD on full alert for Holy Week

By Tina G. Santos

THE WESTERN Police District (WPD) cancelled all the leaves of its men as it went on heightened alert to maintain order and prevent terrorists from hitting "vulnerable establishments" during the Holy Week.

"We don't have any leaves so that we will have enough policemen around during Holy Week," said WPD spokesperson Gerry Agunod.

Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, WPD director, has assured residents that his men have strict orders to protect the Light Rail Transit stations, bus depots and ship terminals in anticipation of the influx of passengers bound for the provinces.

Bulaong said he already deployed "secret agents" to different bus terminals in the city and to the North and South Harbors.

The WPD has deployed more than 3,000 policemen in Manila, including those on motorcycles and patrol cars.

"We are also coordinating with the barangay units as ordered by Mayor (Lito) Atienza, so that the 14,000 barangay watchmen will be fully utilized," Bulaong said.

He said members of the WPD-Explosive and Ordnance Division and their K9s had also been assigned to other public areas. The bags of commuters are stringently checked for explosives and other deadly weapons.

Patrol units and traffic enforcers have also been sent on patrol around churches in the city to maintain order and ensure smooth traffic flow.

The start of the Holy Week in Metro Manila yesterday, Palm Sunday, passed quietly except for an explosion at the LTA Building in Makati City early in the morning. *(See story on Page A24)*

On Holy Thursday, many Catholics are expected to go on the Lenten pilgrimage of "Visita Iglesia," where the faithful visit at least seven churches and retrace the Way of the Cross.

On the same day, Catholics are also expected to troop to churches for the Chrism and Last Supper rites, recalling the blessed meal shared by Jesus with the Apostles before he was arrested.

The Last Supper also reminds the faithful of the institution of the Mass and of the priesthood.

On Good Friday, Roman Catholics will recall the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ with the annual recollection of the Seven Last Words from noon to about 3 p.m.

The Service of the Cross follows in churches later in the afternoon.

Black Saturday draws in the Easter vigil and the "Salubungan" and Mass on Easter Sunday.

Many communities will also hold their own Way of the Cross processions, "Pabasa," or the reading of the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ, and the "senakulo," a dramatization of Christ's passion.

Police officials called on residents to be vigilant, especially now that many are leaving the metropolis to observe the Holy Week in the provinces.

Meanwhile, bus companies have implemented additional security measures to secure passengers bound for the provinces.

"We have been meticulous, especially when it comes to inspecting our passengers' luggage," Gwen Tolentino, 36, a security guard at a bus terminal in Sta. Cruz, Manila, said in Filipino. "We double our efforts for the safety of the public. It's better that way than be sorry."

Inmates suffer skin diseases

By Jocelyn R. Uy

EVEN the Parañaque City jail inmates are not spared from skin diseases which are prevalent this summer.

More than 20 detainees are suffering skin diseases, said jail nurse JO1 William Rosario.

Two inmates have boils while about 20 are with scabies.

"It is expected this summer because of the heat," Rosario told the INQUIRER.

The infected inmates have been isolated on the jail's third floor to prevent the spread of the diseases, he added.

The jail's third floor has only one cell, but big enough to accommodate sick inmates, he said.

Rosario also said three inmates on the 3rd floor had tuberculosis. They are being given treatment provided by the city health office.

"Everything is under control, we are giving them antibiotics," he said.

Last year, from February to April, about 30 cases of skin diseases were recorded in the jail, Rosario revealed.

One factor contributing to the outbreak of skin diseases among inmates is congestion, admitted Supt. Herman Grande, the new warden.

He assumed the position on Tuesday, when erstwhile city jail warden Supt. Danilo Abelinde assumed the post of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology warden.

He said he would take action on the jail's congestion, which he said was a problem in almost all jails in Metro Manila.

"I would ask the help of the local government regarding this problem," Grande told the INQUIRER.

Silted river choking life out of ship industry

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THIS ARTERY needs major surgery if the ailing ship-building industry in Navotas is to survive.

And to help bring back some life to shipyards in the town, the Navotas River needs to be dredged.

To give way for a dredging project, the Navotas municipal government is asking owners to remove their sunken vessels on the Navotas River.

"The local government has helped the Metro Manila Shipyards Association distribute notices to owners of the damaged vessels," municipal planning officer Raffy Serrano said.

Because the river has been getting shallower, shipyards could no longer bring in bigger vessels.

The association started dredging the river, already shallow because of garbage, silt and damaged vessels, in December 2004.

"But we stopped the project because we have no funds available right now," association president Lambert Sianghio said yesterday.

The river also have to be cleared of damaged vessels first before dredging could be completed, Navotas mayor Toby Tiangco also said earlier.

Faced with higher production costs, low demand, foreign competition and lack of government support, the once-booming ship building industry in this coastal town appears to be sinking.

"The mouth of the river has been getting shallower because of garbage," Jesus Villaflor, president of the oldest operational shipyard in Navotas, also said.

If dredging is completed, the river, which empties into the Manila Bay, will be deeper and shipyards could bring in bigger vessels for repair.

They could also assemble bigger ships and increase their market.

Free 8 MSA Books
for MSA College and High School
Entrance Tests Reviewees

MSA Summer
Academic Advancement Program
Grade School
English ♦ Reading ♦ Mathematics
Mental Math & Problem Solving Techniques
High School
Algebra ♦ Geometry
Trigonometry ♦ General Science
Biology ♦ Chemistry ♦ Physics ♦ English
College
Trigonometry ♦ College Algebra ♦ Calculus

Your Education. Your Future!

MSA Register now!!!
315 Kalipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
G/F Prince David Condo, Kalipunan Ave., Loyola Hts.
925-7544 ♦ 929-9145
435-6062 ♦ 925-4602

SM Fairview
SM Mall Novaliches
Quezon City
935-0011
935-0012

Makati
101 Esteban cor Dela Rosa,
Legaspi Village
815-1307
813-0943

Alabang
G/F South Center Tower,
Madrigal Business Park
850-6550
850-6551

Cainta
Franco St.
Vista Verde
Imelda Avenue
646-8243

Antipolo
24 Irwin Street,
Filinvest Homes East
Marcos Highway
646-8245

Cebu
Rivergate Complex
49-A Maxilom Ave.
(032) 255-2191
255-2193

DILIMAN SEX STUDY

A third of UP studes do it on campus

By DJ Yap

A THIRD of the students in the University of the Philippines in Diliman have engaged in sexual activity on campus, according to a recent university study.

But before conservatives—and perverts—react, "sexual activity" refers not only to doing it all-the-way but also to French kissing, petting or necking, masturbation, oral, coital or anal sex.

Thirty-three percent, or 126 of 359 respondents, admitted to having sexual activity on campus, according to a study by the Communication Research Department of the UP College of Mass Communication.

The majority, or 65 percent of the respondents, said they had not engaged in any sexual activity on campus in the past three months prior to the survey conducted during the last week of January and the first week of February this year.

Two percent of the respondents gave no answer.

The on-campus sexual activities, the study noted, are usually done in "sex hotspots," particularly in areas hidden from sight by trees and bushes, and are free of use.

The hotspots included the densely vegetated Lagoon, the wide-open Sunken Garden, the parking lots and comfort rooms. Even Palma Hall, more popularly known as A.S., and the Main Library are also considered sex hotspots, the study reported.

Contrary to belief that UP Diliman students are sexually liberated, the study found out that only a fourth or 24 percent of the respondents have had sex in the three months before the survey.

The students' favorite sexual activity was French kissing, with 55 percent of respondents. Petting or necking and self-masturbation were the second favorite with 48 percent, while 34 percent engaged in oral sex. Only 27 percent had coital sex, or "actual" sex involving the genitals, while 7 percent had anal sex.

But taking both sexes into account, the top sexual activity among females was French kissing, with nearly half or 49 percent saying they had engaged in it, followed by self- and mutual-masturbation with 18 percent each.

Among males, it was self-masturbation on top with 89 percent, followed by French kissing with 68 percent, and petting or necking with 62 percent.

Of 126 respondents who have had sex, 40 percent "sometimes" used protection, 36 percent "always" used protection, while 24 percent "never" used protection.

Of those who used protection, condoms were the preferred method, with 88 percent saying they had used one. Birth-control pills came in a far second with 10 percent, while rhythm method was done by 6 percent.

Respondents to the study were UP Diliman undergraduate students with ages between 16 and 20. Sampling was multi-stage, with respondents picked from 20 colleges.

Department chair Violeda Umali said the margin of error was a little below plus or minus 5 percent, because of "spoilage" in the original sample of 387 students.

Intriguingly, the respondents also reported engaging in sex through technology: 15 percent have engaged in phone sex; 13 percent in cybersex or Internet sex; and 10 percent in text sex.

On the respondents' sexual views, the study reported that more than a third or 34 percent found premarital sex "completely" acceptable, 39 percent consider it "sometimes" acceptable, while 27 percent did not find it acceptable at all.

The students' outlook toward homosexuality, the study found, was generally positive, with more than half or 51 percent finding it "completely" acceptable, 26 percent seeing "sometimes" acceptable, and 22 percent saying it was not acceptable at all.

The researchers said the study applies only to UP Diliman students.

Umali said the study showed an aspect of UP students' sex life that she found "surprising."

The wide range of sexual activity that the respondents engaged in, she said, was completely unheard of in her time.

Education

Free
30,000 pesos
Monthly Stipend
2,000 pesos
School
your choice!*

The
GSIS College
Scholarship
Program

Application is open up to
APRIL 01, 2005

and conditions

HOW TO APPLY

The Program is open to all children of active GSIS members with a weighted average grade of 85% or its equivalent

A Competitive Examination will be given on April 23, 2005 for those who will meet the GSIS Criteria for Selection

MAILED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

a. 2 pcs. passport size picture with signature at the back
b. Certified copy of applicant's birth certificate
c. Certified copy of 4th yr. (3rd grading) High School report Card
d. Certified copy of any of the parent's GSIS Policy contract
e. Parents' Certificate of Employment
f. Certified copy of both parents' latest Income Tax Return (ITR)/W-2 Form.

PRIORITY COURSES
Choose from any of the
4 - 5 year PRIORITY COURSES

Accountancy
Actuarial Science
Mathematics
Management
Business Administration
Mass Communication
Computer Science and IT- related Courses
Engineering
(Major in Computer, Electrical & Electronics, Industrial, Electronics & Communications, Civil, Management and Mechanical only)
Economics
Marketing
Finance
Statistics

For further details, visit the nearest GSIS Office or contact the GSIS HRDD, Core G Level 3, Financial Center, Pasay City, at tel. nos. 551-1878 or 891-6161 loc. 4862 and 4863. You may also log on to www.gsis.gov.ph

Winston F. Garcia
President & General Manager

Government Service Insurance System
GSIS - Kahit Saan, Kahit Kailan Maaasahan

SUERTRES 9 3 5
(In exact order)
EZ2

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
18 24
₱62,203,103.60

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

METRO

SWEEPSTAKES
8 9 1 P
₱100,000.00

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Editor* Ester G. Dipasupil ■ *Assistant Editor* Cenon B. Bibe Jr.

Blast hits Arroyo building in Makati

By Jocelyn R. Uy

NOT SO reassuring.

Despite hightened security amid supposed threats by terrorists to bomb targets in Metro Manila, an explosion hit a building owned by the family of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo in the Makati Central Business District before dawn yesterday.

Downplaying the incident, police quickly declared that the blast was not terrorist related.

"It was caused by a frat or gang war," said Director Avelino Razon, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

However, police could not identify any of the supposed fraternities involved in the 3:55 a.m. incident that damaged glass panels on the ground floor of the Lourdes Tuazon Arroyo (LTA) building on Perea Street.

Chief Insp. Manny Santos, police community precinct director for the business district, said his men were on patrol in the area but missed the perpetrators of the incident.

Initial investigation by the police in Makati City indicated that the blast was caused by a pillbox, an improvised explosive device usually made from firecracker powder wrapped in paper or foil.

Wrapping paper used in the manufacture of firecrackers, rocks, aluminum foil and black powder were retrieved from the blast site.

Investigators noted that the blast made no crater.

The pillbox was lobbed from along Perea Street by still unidentified suspects, police said.

Investigators are suspecting that fraternity members who hang about the pub houses, coffee shops and restaurants in the area could have been involved.

A guard, who was inside the building when the explosion happened, told police that he saw several teenagers running away on Perea Street.

Razon said the damage was minimal. Two small holes of about 1 to 2 inches in diameter were made on the building's first floor glass panel, reportedly at the office of Atty. Jesus Santos, Arroyo's counsel in the controversial Jose Pidal case.

However, Santos said he was not holding office in the building, which is owned by the first gentleman's mother.

"I only go there once in a while, just when I am called for a meeting," Santos told the INQUIRER over the phone, adding that Arroyo's office was on the 8th floor.

Santos also said that his law offices were on Salcedo Street and in Makati Avenue.

The lawyer added that he was in Bulacan when the incident happened and that he had yet to see the damage on the building. He also said he was not aware of any reason why anyone would attack the LTA.

The pillbox explosion was not the first in Makati City. SP04 Gerry Diño, head of the Makati special weapons and tactics team, said another pillbox explosion happened along J.P. Rizal Street, a month ago.

SMART Buddy GSM Pre-paid
Choose your dream
Sa Lagot Ka... isusumbong kita!

May yumaman na!

₱175,000
Studio Winner: Felizardo Salting
Home Partner: Emerlyn Carteciano

Weekly Winners of ₱2,000 cash as studio contestants in GMA 7's Lagot Ka!

Gen Marie Baes
Alona Anastacio
May Anne Caliboso
Celeste Ortiz
Regina Flores
Myrtel Villanueva
Febe Grace Evangelista
Myrna Mesina
Charlie Cabello
Louie Fernandez
Betty Sia
Leonora Distor
Henry Tubiera
Cecilia Claridades
Ederlina Garcia
Anisa Dacampong
Raul Pelomiano
Jessie Restauro
Emelyn Evangelista
Lina Narvadez
Rosalie Malijan
Genevive Ortiz-Luis
Mark Allan Eranzo
Edith Mendoza
Felizardo Salting

Daily ₱1,000 SMART Load winners

Teresita F. Regala
Ma. Carmel Romero
Marilyn Aura T. Guzman
Ronel E. Soto
Calrice C. Shoemaker
Marilou F. Guarin
Felix Tagbac
Juanito Manalad
Justin Juan
Ricky Indo Usona
Josua Vestal
Melanie Miranda
Oliva Lumasag
Blesilda Rosales
Rosario Novales
Jennifer M. Sernande
Enrico Abalos
Randy Padilla
Helen Grace Lopez
Ryan O. Sena
Iroñla Sunio
Vladimir Gracilla
Noel Dimaporo
Josie F. Calura
Allan Dolnuan
Elissa Arelas
Yva Roane Ebora
Eloisa Benedicto
Evangeline C. Buenviaje
Richel Opeña
Ilomar Batislaon
Reynaldo S. Nudo
Randy C. Cruz
Liela M. Angeles
Anatalia Fernandez
Rodel B. Tamayo
Benzon S. Balinbin
Celia Fudan
Gregoria U. Fernandez
Sigrid L. Lara
Alfredo Ramos
Helen Sanico
Ister Geraldine Tabberrah
Antonio Sallendra
Cherell Gomez
Gilbert Baclas
Avegayle Lutero
Ryan Valenzuela
Jennifer Mangonon
Wilchor Cho
Gina Borres
Vicente Acuña
Gina Jimenez
Joseph Lee
Angela Reyes
Vincent C. Aguirre
Jonel Magno
Naneth Mateo
Rommel Gallegos
Karen Jade Flores
Sonia A. Bonagua
Nawila S. Bandong
Bong Manlangit
Ricardo Corpinio
Davy Jee J. Estrabo
Glenda Alvaran
Elva Cols
Villa Andaya
Cynthia Llagas
Estela G. Puerto

Sali na! At baka ikaw na ang susunod na yumaman!

Over ₱10 million in cash to be won in this super exciting game show!

Send DREAM to 232

3 ways to win:

1) Ten (10) Daily Winners of ₱1,000 SMART Load
2) Twenty (20) Weekly Winners of ₱2,000 cash as studio contestants in GMA 7's Lagot Ka! "Jackpot O Lowbat" game portion. Plus a chance to win up to ₱250,000!
3) One (1) Weekly Home Partner can win the equivalent of the cash prize of the studio contestant or a minimum of ₱25,000.

You earn one (1) raffle entry for every ₱15 download or an accumulated ₱15 worth ofdownloads!

Earn additional entries for raffle entry updates that come with Choose Your Dream's featured content of the day (logo, picture messages, info on demand, etc.) for only ₱2.50!

Watch Lagot Ka... Isusumbong Kita! on GMA 7 tonight at 10pm.

To join, text REG <name/address> and send to 232. Registration is FREE.

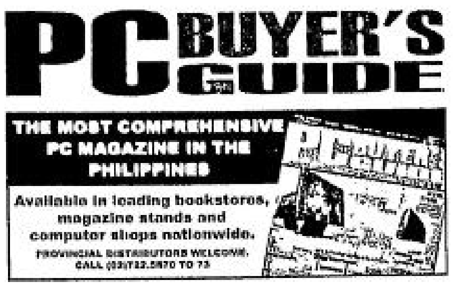
REG
Gigi Ocampo/
63 Rose Street,
Makati City

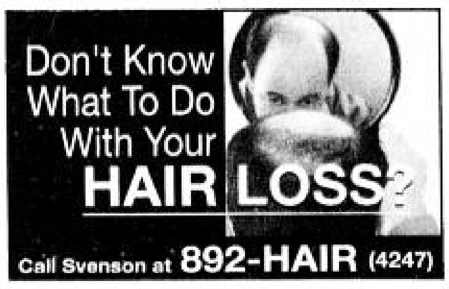
232

SMART 25 8

GMA NETWORK

I ♡ SMART
Simply Amazing!


PC BUYER'S GUIDE
THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE PC MAGAZINE IN THE PHILIPPINES
Available in leading bookstores, magazine stands and computer shops nationwide.
PROVINCIAL DISTRIBUTORS WELCOME. CALL (02)722.5870 TO 73


Don't Know What To Do With Your HAIR LOSS?
Call Svenson at 892-HAIR (4247)

All sound, no fury

BLOODBATH IN VEGAS
Defeat is inevitable as Manny Pacquiao, covered in blood oozing from a gash over his eye, walks back to his corner between rounds during his super featherweight fight against a cool and calculating Erik Morales of Mexico on Saturday at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. AP

Mexicans say Pacquiao is not that smart and strong

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—The big winners at the sports book windows after last night's fight were the bold few who picked the Morales-Pacquiao showdown to last the distance.

There were overwhelming bets that Pacquiao would crush Morales inside six rounds.

A check with the MGM Grand counter last night showed those who chose Morales to last the distance ended up doubling their money.

What's being asked among Mexican celebrants at the frenzied hotel lobbies here was: Who ever sold the idea that Morales could not withstand Pacquiao?

Losers could only blame themselves.

Because, Mexicans can now claim that Pacquiao was not really that smart and strong to stop Morales.

In fact, the showdown at the Grand Garden Arena helped confirm the greatness of Morales, who has never been stopped in 50 fights, including the last one against Pacquiao.

Morales was not only more skillful, he was masterful.

Pacquiao indeed packed the big punches, but these were expertly blunted by the sharp, sly Mexican hero who used his experience to the fullest.

Or, as Pacquiao had also landed several jarring punches, Morales either digested or rolled with the big blows.

Now, Mexicans, who themselves had hesitated to put a bet on their countryman, swear the hype made about Pacquiao's blazing killer fists kept them away from the betting windows here.

This was the reason why, despite great expectations about the influx of Mexican bets for Morales on the eve of the encounter, Pacquiao had remained the outstanding favorite on fight day.

"As it would turn out, Pacquiao is all sound, no fury," swore a bearded *paisano*, who swigged a victory beer in front of the overcrowded Studio 54 club inside the MGM Grand grounds.

Everybody around here could only speculate in awe when it was bruited about that Manny Pacquiao would be showing up armed with the Manila Ice in his monumental showdown with Morales.

The Pacquiao weapon, supposedly perfected to clip and freeze Morales, was neither felt nor seen inside the fight ring last night.

Meanwhile, during the pre-fight press conference, Morales' manager, Fernando Beltran, lost his cool and chastised Team Pacquiao for bragging that "Morales would fall in one round, in two rounds, 10 rounds, whatever."

He even dared Murad Muhammad to a $100,000 bet during the presscon.

Pacquiao was also called a quitter by Beltran during that pre-fight encounter.

Nobody took the Beltran dare to the big bet.

But last night, it was the turn of the Morales camp to say that Pacquiao's might were all imagined.

They were saying the fear of Pacquiao had loomed because of non-stop big talk.

One of those hypes claimed Pacquiao would come out firing like a gun.

It added Morales would be too old and slow to respond to the Pacquiao explosion.

Meanwhile, Morales quietly responded that he also knew of some Pacquiao weaknesses.

Fittingly, Morales did not bare what these weak points of the Filipino star were.

Until last night, Morales had failed to pinpoint these soggy areas in Pacquiao.

For their part, many of the celebrating Mexicans here, mostly the ones who know their boxing, swear big fights are not won with big sounds and empty claims.

Morales' only secret, they' say, is sticking it up to reality.

www.centromanufacturing.com
Best Price for the Best Truck Body!
PASSENGER VAN BODY
The only ISO 9001:2000 Certified Truck Body Builder in the Philippines.
ISUZU NHR ALUM VAN BODY
REFRIGERATED VAN BODY
BILLBOARD VAN BODY
Available for ISUZU (ELF) NKR/ NHR, MITSUBISHI CANTER, KIA K2700 and other brands.
CENTRO MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
Call us at Tel: 930-0971/ 930-3710
Call or Text: (0917) 349-2217

Morales no ordinary fighter

LAS VEGAS—Manny Pacquiao fought desperately with blood flowing down his face from a bad cut over his right eye. Against another fighter it may have been enough, but Erik Morales was not just another fighter.

Morales, fighting with the cool precision of a champion who has been there many times before, got the better of Pacquiao with jabs and big right hands Saturday night to win a close but unanimous decision in their super featherweight showdown.

No title was at stake, but there was plenty of national pride. Pacquiao is a national hero in the Philippines, while Morales is revered in Mexico.

They didn't disappoint, going after each other from the opening bell in a fight that grew in intensity after Pacquiao was cut in the fifth round when he was hit with a right hand and the two boxers clashed heads.

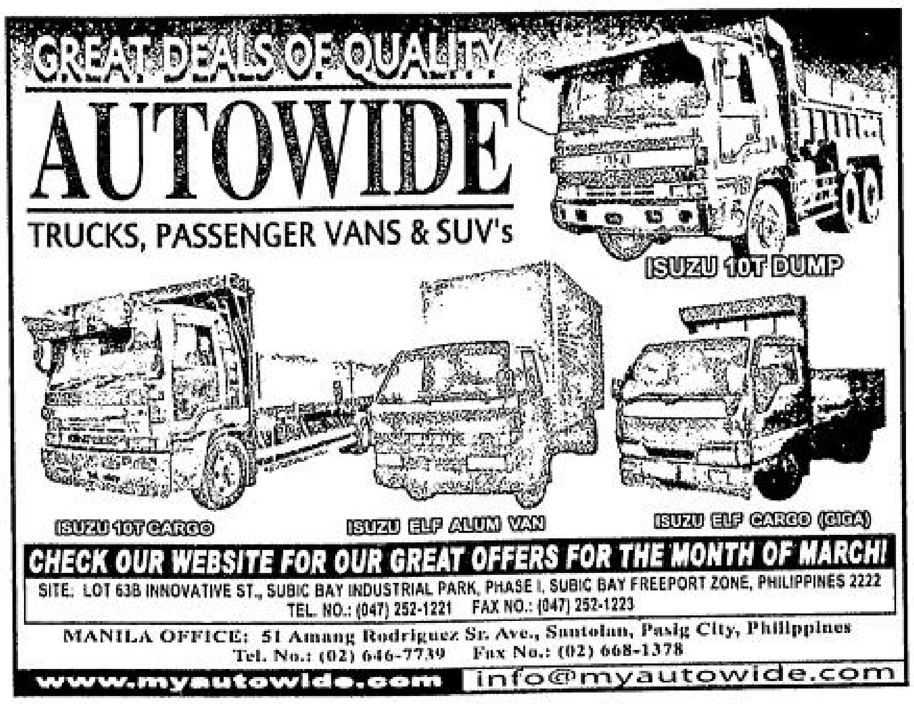
REUTERS

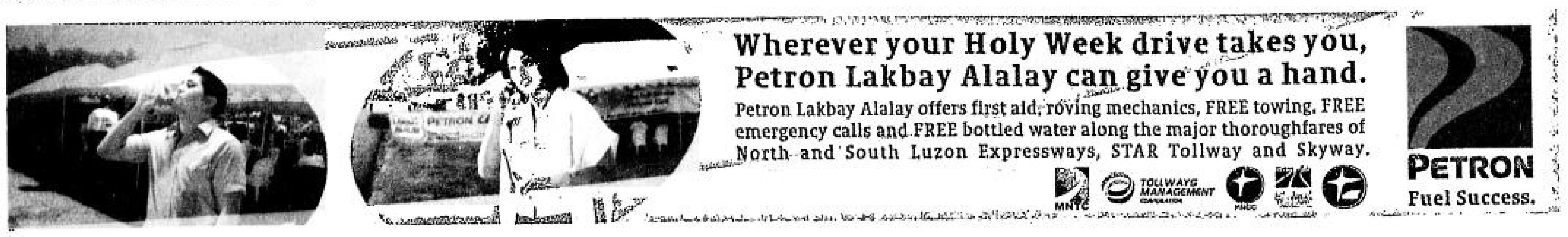
IN ONE of his best moments in the fight, Pacquiao tags Morales with a right cross.

Though blood flowed in his eye, Pacquiao fought gallantly and the two fighters went toe-to-toe in a frenetic 12th round that had the crowd standing and cheering.

"He was a tough guy. I hit him with

MORALES/ A26


GREAT DEALS OF QUALITY
AUTOWIDE
TRUCKS, PASSENGER VANS & SUV's
ISUZU 10T DUMP
ISUZU 10T CARGO
ISUZU ELF ALUM VAN
ISUZU ELF CARGO (GIGA)
CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR GREAT OFFERS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH!
SITE: LOT 63B INNOVATIVE ST., SUBIC BAY INDUSTRIAL PARK, PHASE I, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE, PHILIPPINES 2222
TEL. NO.: (047) 252-1221 FAX NO.: (047) 252-1223
MANILA OFFICE: 51 Amang Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Santolan, Pasig City, Philippines
Tel. No.: (02) 646-7739 Fax No.: (02) 668-1378
www.myautowide.com info@myautowide.com


Wherever your Holy Week drive takes you, Petron Lakbay Alalay can give you a hand.
Petron Lakbay Alalay offers first aid, roving mechanics, FREE towing, FREE emergency calls and FREE bottled water along the major thoroughfares of North and South Luzon Expressways, STAR Tollway and Skyway.
MNTC
TOLLWAYS MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
PETRON
Fuel Success.

Beermen stop Phone Pals; Express win

By June Navarro

CHRIS Burgess focused on everything except on offense and San Miguel Beer carved out a masterful 103-92 win over Talk 'N Text in the 2005 Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Burgess finished with just 10 points but had three blocks and hauled down 22 rebounds, seven of them in a pivotal third quarter when the Beermen overhauled a 51-60 halftime deficit.

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:45 p.m.—Purefoods vs Barangay Ginebra
7:35 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Shell

Inspired by his unselfish play, Olsen Racela and Dondon Hontiveros unloaded a hail of three pointers and long jumpers in the final half as the Beermen moved on top with their fourth victory in five games.

"Chris definitely fits the San Miguel system," said San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico. "He may not be the type of player who could score anytime but he's very coachable and he gives as what the team needs."

Racela drained 15 of his 24 points in the second half while Hontiveros had three triples in the same span and finished with 16 points.

Danny Seigle, who scored a career-high 43 points in a winning effort against Sta. Lucia Realty in Ormoc City last week, tossed in 17 points along with Nic Belasco.

"Our morale is high with that double overtime victory against Sta. Lucia but I didn't expect the team to have the same level of intensity in this game," said Uichico.

The Beermen sent erstwhile leader Talk 'N Text down to its first setback following two consecutive victories over Shell and Sta. Lucia Realty.

In the second game, FedEx blew a double-digit lead in the first half but played steadily in the endgame to down Sta. Lucia, 103-93, and snap a two-game losing skid.

The Express leveled their record to 2-2 while the Realtors dropped their third game in four outings.

After dominating first-half action, the Phone Pals eased up in the third, allowing the Beermen to control the boards, 18-7, and set up several fastbreak plays.

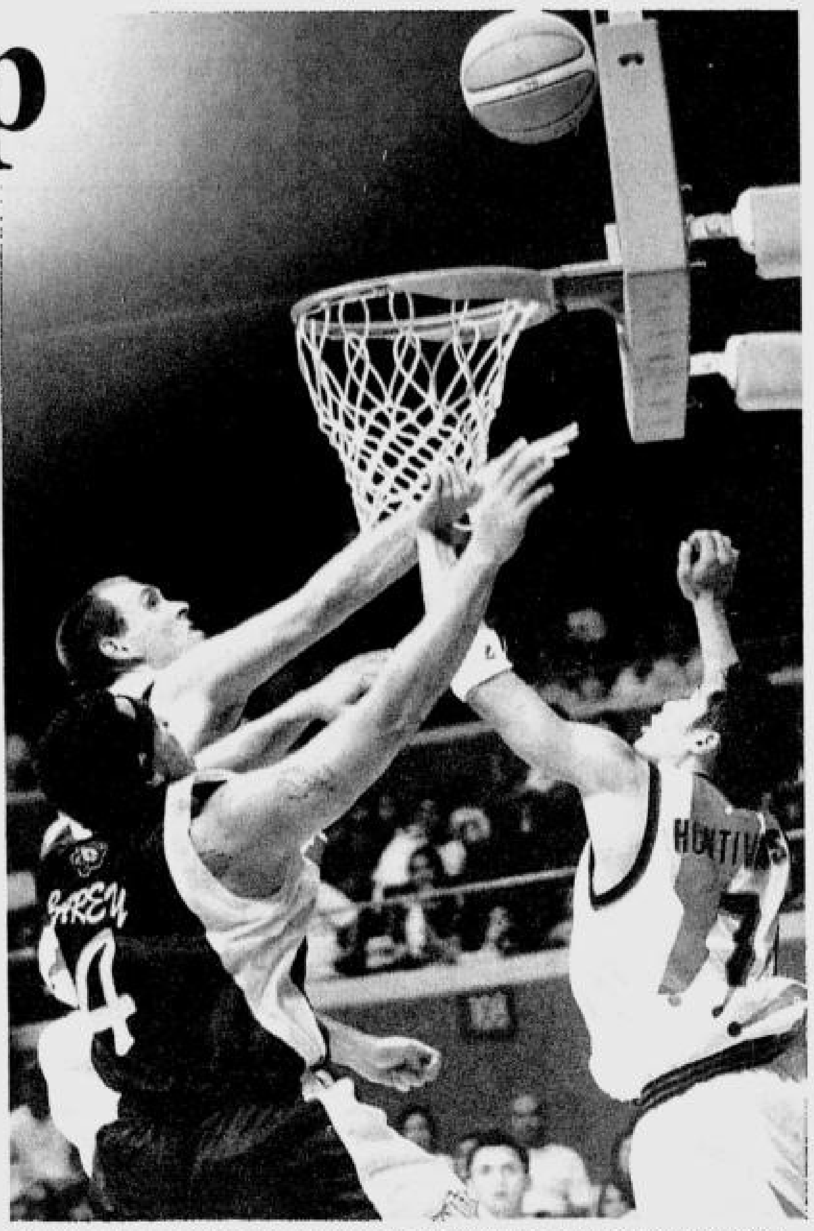
Jimmy Alapag and Willie Miller had a pair of three-pointers each in the first half as the Phone Pals went five of 10 from the trifecta territory.

But they lost their torrid outside shooting in the final 24 minutes where they only sank a lone trey in nine attempts.

In observance of the Holy Week, the Beermen will go on a 12-day vacation while the Phone Pals, fresh off a week-long break, get another 11-day rest.

Meanwhile, the PBA-backed Philippine men's team will host a pocket tournament on April 17-19.

A team from Russia is the first to confirm its participation while the organizers are awaiting response from invitees from Iran, Qatar, Iraq, Korea, Lebanon and China.



CHRIS Burgess and Dondon Hontiveros (right) of SMB dispute the rebound with Harvey Carey of Talk 'N Text during the game last night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

The scores:

First Game

SAN MIGUEL 103—Racela 24, Seigle 17, Belasco 17, Hontiveros 16, Burgess 10, Pena 8, Lopez 6, Villoria 3, Mente 2.

TALK 'N TEXT 92—Ike 19, Alapag 18, Miller 15, Telan 10, Carey 9, Camaso 8, Pablo 8, Belano 3, Gelig 2, Fran 0.

Quarters: 31-36, 51-60, 78-75, 103-92.

Second Game

FEDEX 103—Miller 29, Ferriols 16, Pingris 11, David 11, Ritualo 11, Arboleda 10, Codiñera 8, De Ocampo 4, Billones 3.

STA. LUCIA 93—Brown 26, Demape 16, Mendoza 15, Duremdes 14, Gonzales 6, Agapito 5, Omolon 4, Aquino 4, Calimag 2, Tolomia 1.

Quarters: 32-17, 50-49, 70-68, 103-93

Alonso triumphs over Trulli

SEPANG, Malaysia—Fernando Alonso won Sunday's Malaysian Grand Prix to give Renault back-to-back F1 victories, while Jarno Trulli captured second place and a maiden podium position for Toyota.

Alonso's teammate Giancarlo Fisichella crashed out, taking Williams' Mark Webber with him, and seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher collected his first points of 2005 with a seventh-place finish for Ferrari.

Alonso, third at the season-opening Australian Grand Prix behind Fisichella and Ferrari's Rubens Barrichello two weeks ago, dominated from pole position to collect his second GP title.

He covered 56 laps of the 5.543-kilometer Sepang circuit in 1 hour, 31 minutes, 33.736 seconds, 24.3 seconds clear of Trulli and 32.1 ahead of Williams' Nick Heidfeld, who moved up from 10th place on the starting grid.

The 23-year-old Spaniard, who became the youngest winner in F1 when he clinched his first title at Hungary last year, bounded up onto the top of the podium and pumped his arms into the air three times to celebrate his Sepang triumph. *AP*

Morales no …

From page A25

everything," Morales said. "I knew the guy was quick. I knew boxing would be the key because he was so fast."

"It was a close fight with a lot of close rounds," Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach said. "Morales landed the bigger punches but Manny landed more combinations."

Neither fighter went down, but it wasn't because of a lack of effort. They brawled at a relentless pace.

"I tried my best," Pacquiao said.

Morales kept his left jab on the cut over Pacquiao's eye, but said he didn't think the fight would be stopped. *AP*

Gorres knocks out Fil-Am opponent in first round

NO WONDER World Boxing Association mandatory challenger Jose Navarro and an army of fighters are avoiding him like a plague.

Yesterday, in the opening fight of the Manny Pacquiao-Erik Morales showdown, Gorres easily dismantled Fil-Am Glenn Donaire, a former US Olympic qualifying campaigner, in the opening round of their scheduled 8-rounder at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

The end came in two minutes and three seconds when Donaire said he won't be able to continue because he "couldn't see."

Donaire called it quits after getting a right cross from Gorres, the former Philippine flyweight champion. Donaire had earlier went down from an accidental headbutt from the Filipino.

The win improved Gorres' record to 19-1-1, 11 KOs while Donaire, who was born in General Santos City and now lives in California, saw his record dip to 13-2, with 8 KOs.

Gorres, now promoted by Murad Muhammad and trained by Buddy McGirt in Orlando, Florida, was originally slated to face WBC superfly mandatory challenger Jose Navarro.

Navarro withdrew from the fight with Gorres presumably to avoid jeopardizing his rider status against the winner of the Katsushige Kawashima-Masamori Tokuyama WBC 115-lb championship.

Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor

OUTLAST
DIESEL
100% Calcium Lead
Maintenance-Free
2004 Consumers' Choice
Dangal ng Pilipinas
Annual Awards

2004-05 Consumers Choice Awardee
Most Outstanding Battery Brand

WALA NANG IBA!

100% Calcium Lead Technology
Walang Dagdag-Bawas sa tubig

2 Years Warranty
1st in ASIA

FLYING FINISH
Proving his mettle as the region's best rider, Glenn Aguilar soars to a first-heat victory yesterday in the 2005 FIM Asian Motocross Championship in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. Chosen by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa) to represent the Philippines in Asia's Olympics of motocross, Aguilar, nicknamed the Revtex Rocket, won the heat in grand fashion, beating such world-class riders as Tadazaku Ohtsuka of Japan, Aep Dadang of Indonesia, Chaiyan Romphan of Thailand, Christian Horwood of Australia and James Robinson of New Zealand.

Santillan surrenders OPBF crown to Japan's Hidaka

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

THE PHILIPPINES lost yet another champ as Rev Santillan surrendered his Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation (OPBF) welterweight crown Saturday night via a fourth round knockout to Japanese challenger Kazuhiko Hidaka at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo, Japan.

Santillan, who was also knocked down in the third round, received a barrage of punches from Hidaka in the fourth of the scheduled 12-rounder, prompting the referee to halt the fight.

"The Korean referee stopped the fight immediately as the damage (inflicted on) Santillan looked serious," a Japanese reporter told this writer yesterday. Santillan's record dipped to 21-2-1 (win-loss-draw), 15 by KOs, while Hidaka improved to 21-4, 15 by KOs.

The defeat is expected to send the Iloilo City-rased fighter down the World Boxing Council rankings, where he is currently ranked No. 7.

Santillan's dethronement also reduced the country's remaining OPBF champions to just two—super-featherweight Randy Suico and minimumweight Rodel Mayol.

On March 5, Dennis Laurente also lost his OPBF lightweight crown via a split decision to Japan's Chikashi Inada at the same venue.

Iligan City Crusaders complete NBC Southern cast

ILIGAN City has joined the National Basketball Conference, completing the six-team field in the Southern division.

To be known as the Crusaders, Iligan will be grouped with defending champion Tribu Sugbu (Cebu Tribes) of businessman Lito Gillamac, Ozamiz City Cotta of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog, Cagayan de Oro Stars of former governor Antonio Calingin, Iloilo Warriors of IBL president Robert Uy and Valencia Golden Harvest of Mayor Jose Galario.

Iligan Mayor Lawrence Cruz finalized his city's participation in the country's top regional league after meeting with NBC secretary general Tito Palma yesterday at Manila Peninsula Hotel.

"We believe we can form a competitive team, get good exposure for our city and boost sports development in Lanao del Norte through the NBC," said Mayor Cruz.

NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla welcomed the entry of Iligan.

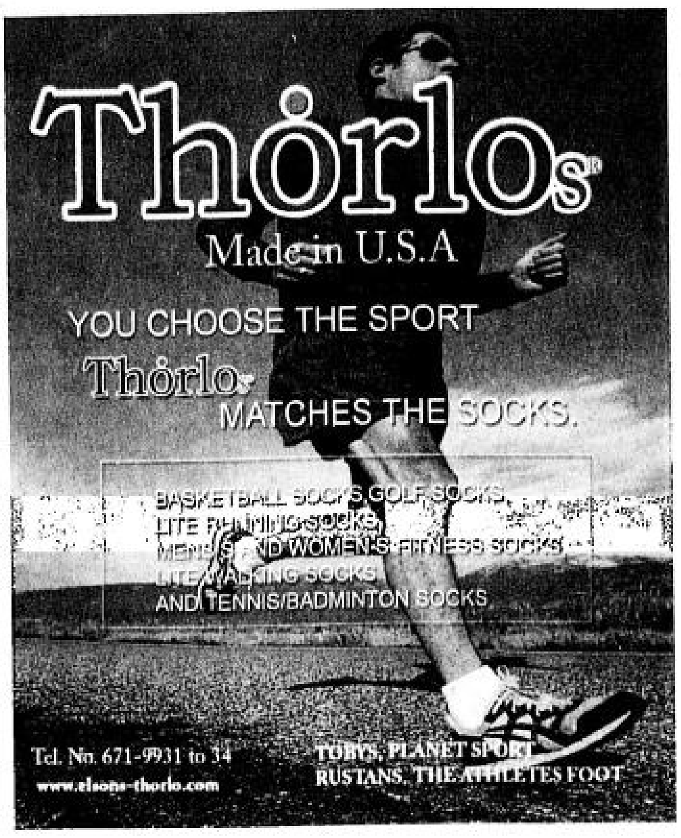
"This shows the NBC is indeed making headway in promoting regional basketball," said the reigning national pistol champion. "The entry of Iligan also opened the NBC to our Muslim brothers."

Iligan sports director Freddie Siao said "we're excited with NBC's approval of our application. Our people (in Lanao) are happy."

The Crusaders will use the 5,000-seat Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology gym as their homecourt.

Four teams have already signed up in the North division—Mayor Freddie Tinga's Forward Taguig, the Laguna Spring of Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro, the Baguio Cardinals of team manager Christian Bautista and the Parañaque Jets of Vice Mayor and actor-TV host Anjo Yllana:

Vying for the remaining two slots are Pampanga, La Union, Cavite, Rizal, Quezon and original member Batangas 29ers.


Thôrlos
Made in U.S.A
YOU CHOOSE THE SPORT
Thôrlos
MATCHES THE SOCKS.
BASKETBALL SOCKS GOLF SOCKS,
LITE RUNNING SOCKS,
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FITNESS SOCKS
LITE WALKING SOCKS
AND TENNIS/BADMINTON SOCKS
Tel. No. 671-9931 to 34
www.elsons-thorlo.com
TOBYS, PLANET SPORT
RUSTANS, THE ATHLETES FOOT

NAKAKAULIT NA KAMI!
Lawyer
55 years old
Policeman
48 years old
Fireman
40 years old
Businessman
33 years old
Sales Executive
29 years old
Security Guard
25 years old
KAYO?
Production Operator
36 years old
Insurance Broker
55 years old
Machine Operator
44 years old
Uulit ka pa!
再來一杯!
Exclusively Distributed by:
DERICH DIAMOND PHARMA, INC.
(632) 951-6001, (632) 932-7565 local 114
diamond@i-manila.com.ph
Available at mercury drug
and other supermarkets and drugstores
BFAD FR-36127
LEE MF-Rhino Brand
Revitalize your sex life.
RHINO Herbal Tea For men

Gopez heads PSA Forum guest list

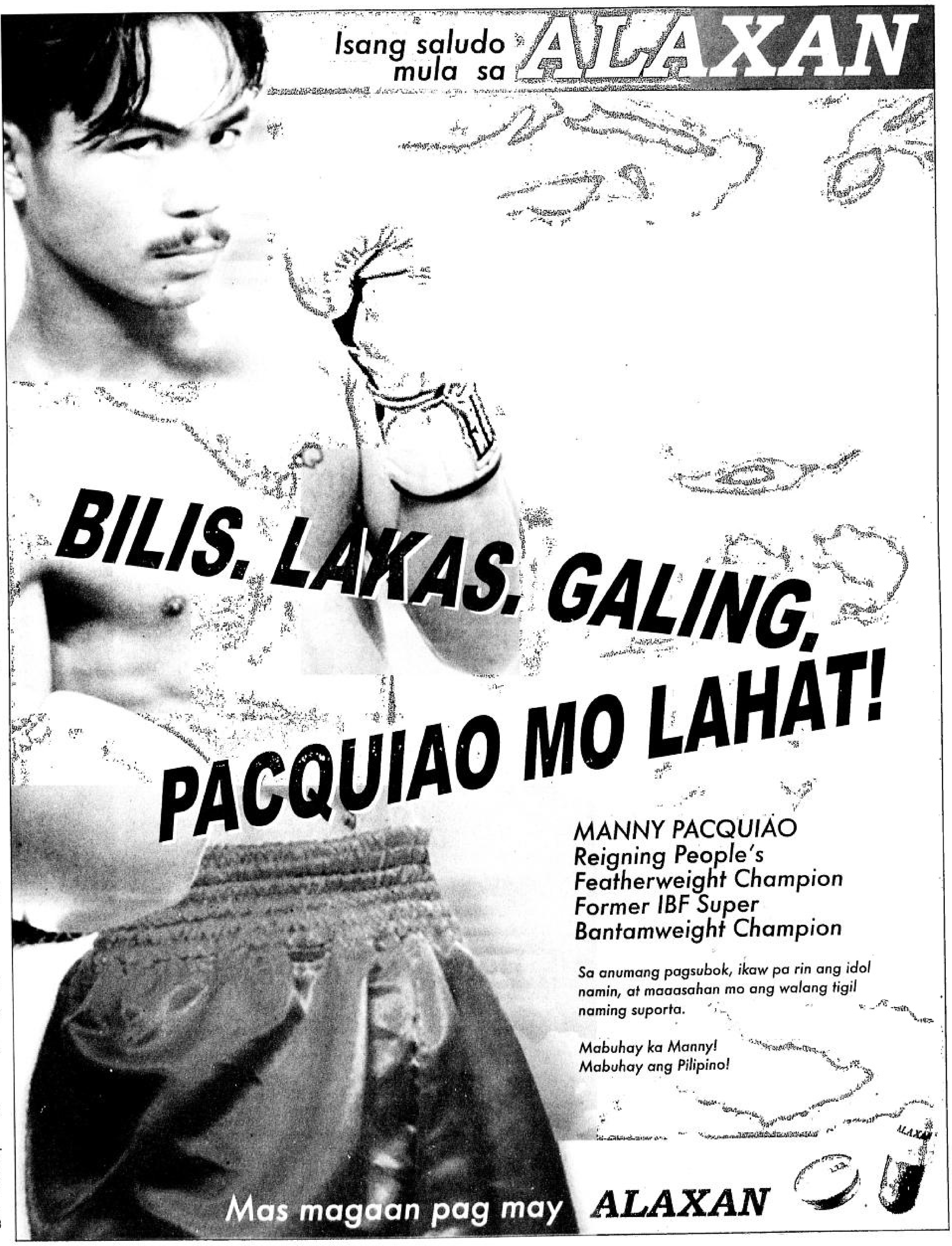
THE PSA Forum resumes its weekly session tomorrow with National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP) president Benny Gopez heading the long list of guests appearing at the Manila Pavilion. Gopez will shed light on his current row with top amateur golfer Juvic Pagunsan during the public sports program sponsored by Red Bull, Supermax, Circure, Pagcor and aired live over dzSR Sports Radio. Also guesting are Froi Dytianquien, senior manager at Mitsubishi, Lawn Balls president Ronalyn Greenlees and the men and women's lawn ball teams to the SEA Games as well as cyclists Eboy Quinones, Marites Bitbit and lawyer Gregorio and Terry Larrazabal.

Super 4-cock derby up at Cavite venue

MORE than 70 fights are on tap in the Rabatitat Super 4-Cock Derby, main feature in the grand opening at 6 p.m. today of the Cavite Coliseum and Derby Center, located at Kilometer 18, Aguinaldo Highway in Bacoor, Cavite. The guaranteed prize is P400,000 for an entry fee of P10,000 in the one-day derby hosted by Bobbit Ples. Seeing action are entries of former senator Ramon Revilla, Eric dela Rosa, Ito Yñares, Patrick Antonio, Richard Bates, Rey Briones, Joel Chavez, Jun Villar, Jun Marasigan, Allan Dilay, Tony Panopio, RJ Mea and Strike Revilla, among others. Submission of weights is from 6 a.m. to 12 noon. For inquiries, call 046-9709971 or 0916-5055126.

Cash Premyo tilt fires off at Roligon

IT'S all systems go for the eighth edition of the Cash Premyo 3-Cock Derby which unwraps at 6 p.m. today at Roligon Mega Cockpit. More than 70 fights are scheduled in the P200,000 event hosted by partners Abraham Bernales, Tiling Capitan and Mario Gujelde. Roligon management has decided to keep admission prices at P200 and P300. Meanwhile, the Fastest Kill Challenge One-Cock Ulutan is set on April 2 with P501,000 at stake. Entry fee is P2,200. The grand champion will receive P100,000. For inquiries, call 833-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.


Isang saludo mula sa ALAXAN
BILIS. LAKAS. GALING.
PACQUIAO MO LAHAT!
MANNY PACQUIAO
Reigning People's Featherweight Champion
Former IBF Super Bantamweight Champion
Sa anumang pagsubok, ikaw pa rin ang idol namin, at maaasahan mo ang walang tigil naming suporta.
Mabuhay ka Manny!
Mabuhay ang Pilipino!
Mas magaan pag may ALAXAN

Dynamic duo fuels Miami's sizzling run

MIAMI—Shaquille O'Neal scored 33 points and Dwyane Wade had 30 to lead the Miami Heat to its 12th straight win Saturday with a 97-82 victory over the New York Knicks.

O'Neal also grabbed 17 rebounds as Miami won its 15th straight at home and swept the four-game season series with New York for the first time in franchise history.

"It says a lot about our chemistry," Wade said. "We both told each other we needed each other tonight."

O'Neal and Wade became the first Heat duo to each score 30 points or better in the same game since Glen Rice and Khalid Reeves did it in 1995 against Philadelphia.

"They're two different teams with Shaq on the floor and without Shaq on the floor," Knicks guard Jamal Crawford said. "They still have Wade but Shaq takes them to the next level."

Miami, which has won 19 of 21, never trailed after a late first quarter run and built the lead to double figures in the second quarter.

Stephon Marbury led New York with 23 points, while Crawford finished with 20 points.

Wizards rally

In Washington, Gilbert Arenas rallied from a scoreless first half with 22 points in the second, including two free throws with 2.3 seconds to play, leading the Wizards past Utah, 96-95.

After Raja Bell hit a fadeaway 18-footer for Utah with 18 seconds remaining, Arenas dribbled down the clock for the final shot and was fouled by Bell while driving the lane. Arenas made the free throws, and Howard Eisley missed a contested 16-footer at the buzzer to send the Jazz to their ninth straight loss.

Arenas started 0-for-4 with four turnovers, but scored the Wizards' last six points and finished 5-for-16 from the field, 10-for-12 from the free throw line, eight rebounds, five assists, two steals and seven turnovers.

Larry Hughes scored 21 points, and Steve Blake had 15, making five of six 3-pointers for the Wizards.

In Philadelphia, Othella Harrington scored a season-high 24 points and Ben Gordon had eight of his 22 in the fourth quarter, helping the Chicago Bulls trip the Sixers, 94-88.

Kirk Hinrich contributed 21 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for the Bulls, who snapped a four-game losing streak.

Allen Iverson, playing his second straight game with a chipped bone in his left thumb, led the Sixers with 31 points. But he converted just 9-of-24 from the field and committed 11 turnovers, one short of his season-high set March 8 against Golden State.

New coach

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 33 points on 12-of-20 shooting to beat the Charlotte Bobcats, 104-93, and give Avery Johnson his first win as the Mavericks' full-time coach.

Johnson took over the Mavericks for good after Don Nelson resigned as coach earlier in the day.

Dallas just couldn't shake the expansion Bobcats, who have lost 10 straight games and are 2-31 on the road.

In Portland, Oregon, Grant Hill had 23 points and eight rebounds, and the Orlando Magic snapped a seven-game losing skid by handing the Trail Blazers a 97-92 defeat.

Orlando defeated the Blazers for the first time since 1998 despite missing leading scorer Steve Francis, who was suspended for one game Saturday for kicking a courtside photographer during a game in Seattle on Friday.

Rookie Viktor Khryapa had a season-high 21 points on 9-of-10 shooting to lead the Blazers, who are 1-8 since firing coach Maurice Cheeks.

Magic interim coach Chris Jent earned his first victory after taking over for Johnny Davis, who lost his job Thursday.

Tense

In Los Angeles, Cuttino Mobley scored 15 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, Mike Bibby added 19 points and the Sacramento Kings completed their second straight season sweep of the Clippers via a tense 111-107 overtime triumph.

Sacramento's four wins against the Clippers were by a combined 15 points.

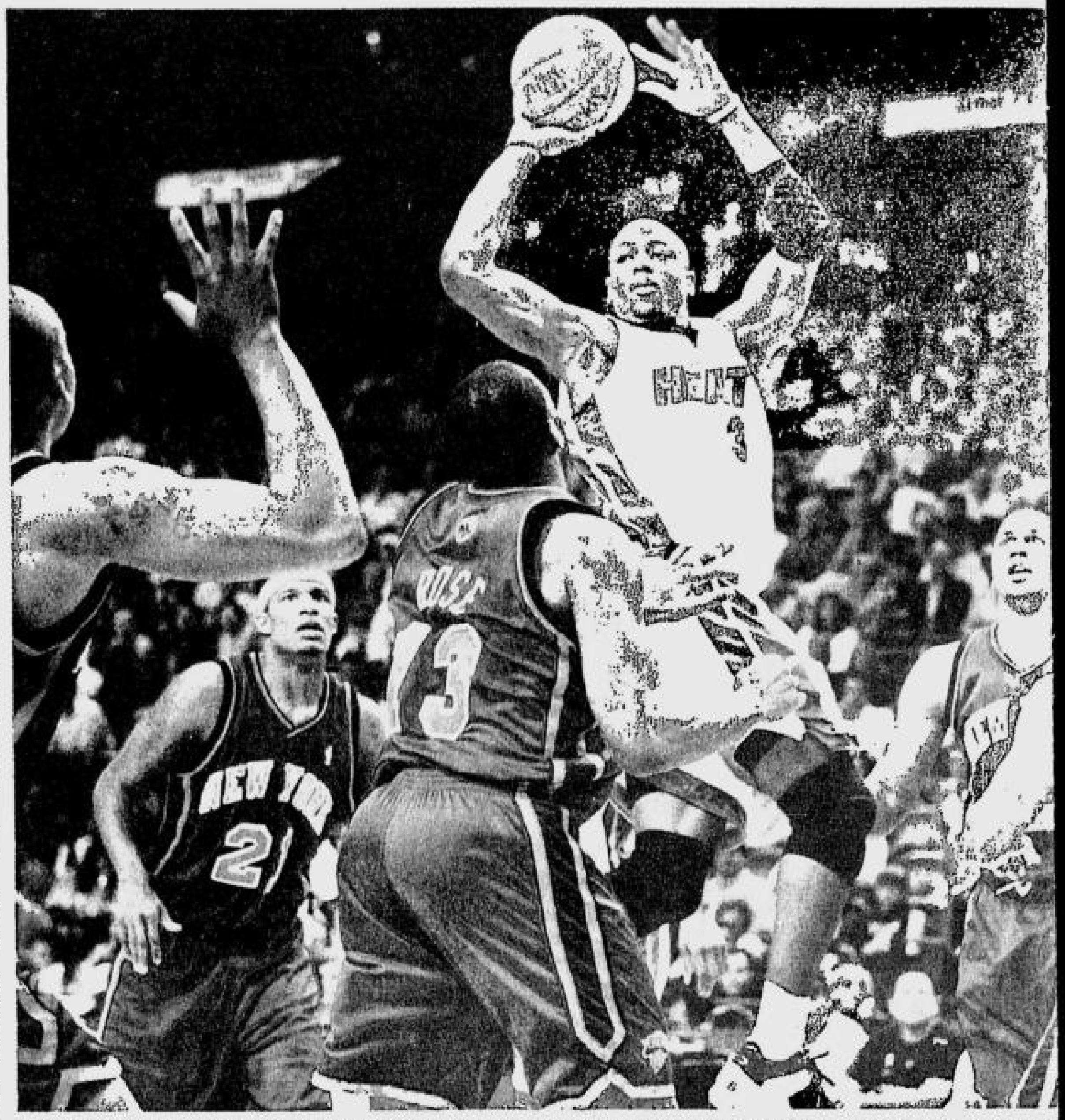
Peja Stojacovic had 24 points and Kenny Thomas added 16, helping Sacramento beat the Clippers for the ninth straight time.

The victory put Sacramento within 3 games of Dallas for fourth place in the Western Conference standings and homecourt advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

In New Orleans, Ricky Davis scored 27 points and Paul Pierce had 23 to help the Boston Celtics cruise past the Hornets, 113-100, for its seventh straight win.

Boston shot 52 percent from the field, including 10-of-19 from 3-point range, and 27 of 31 at the line.

AP



SURROUNDED by the entire New York on-court roster, Miami guard Dwyane Wade soars high and looks for an open teamn

Kobe sounds alarm on Laker

EL SEGUNDO, California—It will go down in the season annals as the six-game trip that started for the Lakers with a victory March 10 in Dallas and the Kobe Bryant declaration that "Nobody standing in front of us thinks we're going to win on this road trip."

Four days later, Bryant moved on to challenging reporters who predicted the Lakers would miss the playoffs for the first time since 1994, saying "If you're wrong, there goes your raises," even as his team lost by 14 to the Washington Wizards.

By the time, however, the Lakers' were ready to head home after Friday night's 103-97 loss to the Indiana Pacers, Bryant's tone had changed with the postseason seemingly falling further out of reach by the game.

"We've got to win," Bryant said. "I don't care who we play. I don't care if we play San Antonio the last 17 games. We've got to win. We've just got to figure out a way to get it done. I don't care who we play, where we play, when we play."

With four weeks left in the regular season, the Lakers (32-33) trail the Denver Nuggets by 2 1/2 games for the Western Conference's eighth and final playoff spot and face the reality of the toughest remaining schedule among their counterparts.

They will host the Seattle SuperSonics tonight at Staples Center and need a victory to avoid their first five-game losing streak in more than a decade. Then they head back on the road for games at Utah and Denver this week.

"It can be done, it definitely can be done," forward Brian Grant said. "We still have opportunity. We are nowhere near out of it. But we have to start playing like a team that's desperate, understanding that we can't afford a few mor

The Lakers' have the most di
out of the teams that entered Sa
tioned eighth through 10th in the
standings. Twelve of their final 17
come against teams that would
playoffs if they started now.

By comparison, Denver has
games remaining against such
Minnesota only six of 15. In add
Memphis and New Orleans hav
games left (13) against teams wi
records as the Lakers.

Interim coach Frank Hamble
Friday if he thought the Lakers
reach the playoffs and answered
lutely," before adding a caveat.

"We're going in the wrong
though, as far as making the play
blen said. "We have to right the sh

Clijsters conquers Pacific; Hewitt hits final

KIM Clijsters is a winner anew. Her ex-boyfriend, Lleyton Hewitt will try to match her feat. REUTERS

INDIAN WELLS, California—Former world No. 1 Kim Clijsters defeated top-ranked Lindsay Davenport on Saturday to win her second Pacific Life Open title in three years.

Clijsters, who withdrew during last year's tournament with a wrist injury and missed most of the year, defeated Davenport, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

The top two men's players in the world moved into their final. Lleyton Hewitt outlasted Andy Roddick in a match that went to three tiebreakers, and defending champion Roger Federer continued his dominating run with a quick victory over Guillermo Canas.

Hewitt edged Roddick, 7-6 (2), 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4), in a well-played, entertaining night match that lasted 2 hours, 33 minutes. Federer needed just 1:13 to beat Canas.

"I'm disappointed, but I'm not upset because I feel like I played a really good match. I know it took the best of Lleyton tonight," Roddick said.

Hewitt said he's looking forward to facing Federer in the final.

"It's taking the best players to play their best game to beat me every week, and I think that's all you can put on the table," he said.

Clijsters, now ranked 133rd, could hardly believe she had won the title.

"This is incredible. I was just sitting there, looking at my mom and my coach in my box saying, 'You know, this is true.' I was looking up at the scoreboard," she said.

"It's an incredible feeling after the tough year last year to be able to have this now, and so soon."

Clijsters had two operations on her left wrist after hurting it at Indian Wells. This year's tournament is only her fourth since the injury.

The big-serving Roddick had 25 aces to Hewitt's 10, but ended too many long rallies with his shots sailing long or wide.

Roddick made 53 unforced errors to the Australian's 37.

Federer is ranked No. 1 and Hewitt No. 2. Roddick is No. 3.

Federer has looked unstoppable, with a 41-1 match record over eight tournaments since the start of last year's US Open, which he won. His only loss since then was to Marat Safin in this year's Australian Open.

The women's final at Indian Wells was a rematch of the 2003 championship showdown, when Clijsters defeated Davenport in straight sets.

A two-time champion at Indian Wells and a finalist four other times, Davenport got off to a great start against Clijsters, then faltered. Coming off a victory over Maria Sharapova in which she didn't lose a game, Davenport shot out to a 4-0 lead over Clijsters.

The 21-year-old from Belgium then reeled off a string of six games to take the first set as Davenport suddenly began making mistakes.

Davenport, 28, regained her composure and came back to win the second set, but Clijsters—hitting her ground strokes consistently on or near the lines—took control in the third.

There definitely were some momentum swings.

"It was crazy," Davenport said. "Started off really well, kind of continued where I was yesterday (against Sharapova). Pretty soon I felt the tide turned from me being the aggressor to her being the aggressor."

AP

WASHINGTON forward Bobby Jones scores on a du

With a major in mind, Delasin dumps 'Lexus' for a 'Ferrari'

SAN FRANCISCO—Dorothy Delasin's golfing transformation began in May, after a tournament in Williamsburg, Virginia. She finished tied for 25th, not the kind of implosion usually necessary for a former LPGA Rookie of the Year to dump her lifelong swing.

But Delasin—the youngest player in tour history to reach $1 million in career earnings, the wunderkind weaned on San Francisco's scruffy municipal courses—was growing restless with her place in the golf galaxy. She did not enjoy lingering in the game's vast middle ground, several plateaus below Annika Sorenstam, the top player on the planet.

Delasin approached Bryan Gathright, her coach, and bluntly asked what it would take for her to win a major. Gathright seized the opening and suggested she remake the swing she learned as a kid.

"I had a Lexus and I wanted a Ferrari," Delasin said of her swing.

Now, on the brink of the first LPGA major of 2005—the Kraft-Nabisco Championship begins Thursday—Delasin declared herself on the brink of a breakthrough. This makes no sense on some levels, because in 2004 she wobbled through the worst of her five years on tour. She shot 77-79 on the weekend at a tournament earlier this month, and she shot 77 on Friday to miss the cut at the Safeway International near Phoenix.

Delasin and Gathright remain undeterred. They speak with bubbling confidence, as if Delasin has visited the promised land, where every drive sails straight and true and every approach rolls tantalizingly close to the pin.

Top three in the world

"I think Dorothy will be one of the top three players in the world by the end of next year," Gathright said.

Said Delasin, still only 24 years old: "I feel like I have a legitimate chance to win majors, because my swing is going to be there when I need it."

These count as bold words, given Delasin's plunge last year. She finished 49th on the money list, the first time she had not landed in the top 31. She did not win any tournament and missed the cut in three of the four majors.

Delasin, in a recent telephone interview, acknowledged the rampant frustration of 2004. She traced these struggles to her persistently sore right wrist, a factor in the decision to overhaul her swing, and then to the step backward inevitably accompanying such a major change.

To hear Gathright tell it, Delasin's old swing contained too much unnecessary motion. Delasin called it "flat," a byproduct of using her dad's clubs when Arsenio "Sonny" Delasin taught her the game as she grew up in Daly City.

Now, after frequent sessions
right and endless hours of drills
looking in a mirror, Delasin descri
shaped swing as more stable and t

Delasin made the change after
with Gathright about her lofty,
goals—namely, winning majors a
the Hall of Fame. She visualizes sp
such as joining JoAnne Carner a
women to win the USGA Girls
Women's Amateur and US Wome
tles (Delasin can cross the first tw
her list).

In her first event on tour, Delasi
the pro shop and bought golf ball

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ate. REUTERS

Perry leads Bay Hill; Vijay poised to retake No. 1 slot

ORLANDO, , Florida—Kenny Perry and Vijay Singh moved to the front of the pack in separate races Saturday at the Bay Hill Invitational.

Perry was leading the tournament at 9 under when the third round was suspended by darkness, thanks to his amazing accuracy off the tee. Singh seized control of the battle for No. 1, thanks to astonishing collapses by Tiger Woods and Ernie Els.

A marathon day at Bay Hill that featured wild shifts in momentum finally ended with Perry taking a one-shot lead over Trinidad's Stephen Ames into a final day that should be equally taxing.

Perry took the 36-hole lead, his first on the PGA Tour in nearly two years, with a 4-under 68 in the second round that was played Saturday morning. He added two quick birdies to keep his name at the top. Ames was at 8 under, while Singh birdied the 13th hole in near darkness to reach 7 under, along with KJ Choi.

Fred Couples was at 5 under.

Singh didn't play a single shot until he teed off late Saturday afternoon, then nearly made an ace on the second hole while firing off three straight birdies to get into contention.

The 42-year-old Fijian, who gave up his No. 1 ranking to Woods two weeks ago, is in prime condition to get it back. A victory would make it easy, but Singh also could return to the top by finishing in a two-way tie for third—provided Woods winds up out of the top 20.

And that certainly looks possible.

Woods shot a 70 in the morning and was only three shots out of the lead, poised to move toward the top at a tournament he won four straight years. But he struggled early, then fell apart.

SINGH: Top spot in sight. REUTERS

He failed to birdie the par-5 sixth hole despite having a mid-iron into the green for his second shot. He missed the seventh green to make bogey and fall six shots behind. Then, he hit his tee shot onto the driving range, out of bounds, on the ninth hole for a double bogey.

When he climbed into a van to leave the course, Woods was even par for the tournament and nine shots off the lead and in a tie for 33rd.

Even more surprising is that Woods was only one shot better than Els, who also had a chance to reach No. 1 this week, but those hopes seemingly ended in his second round.

He was only three shots out of the lead until hitting into the water on the par-5 16th (bogey), hitting into more water on the 18th and three-putting (triple bogey), and going out-of-bounds on the third hole when his tee shot bounced hard off a cart path. He had a 77, matching his high score at Bay Hill, and made the cut on the number.

Els was 3 under for his third round, 1 over for the tournament.

The most stunning turnaround came from US Open champion Retief Goosen, a forgotten figure the first two rounds while playing with Woods and Els. It didn't help that he opened with a 78.

But the South African rallied with two batches of birdie streaks—three straight on the back nine, four straight on the front nine—for a 67 in the second round, matching Jimmy Walker for the low score this week. Then, Goosen fired off more birdies and was only four shots off the lead at one point.

He closed with back-to-back bogeys, however, for a 68 that gave him a 3-under 213.

"I hit the ball like I hadn't hit it in 10 years. Shocking," Goosen said of his opening round. "I felt like withdrawing and, you know, just go home. I might as well come out and work on my game."

The clubhouse leaders were Aaron Baddeley and Duffy Waldorf. *AP*

SAFEWAY LEADER: Lorena Ochoa of Mexico plays a bunker shot on the ninth hole during the third round of the Safeway International at Superstition Mountain Golf and Country Club. She takes a one-stroke lead going into the final round against Korean Kang Soo-yun after a 71 for 204. AFP

A LIFETIME GIFT...HAIR TRANSPLANTATION!

Remember how your hair used to look? Now imagine your life again with a head full of hair. It grows, it's permanent and only maintenance is a monthly haircut. Dr. Pine[illegible] the latest technology with follicular unit transplant to achieve a natural looking hairline. *"As natural as it used to be"!* ***Andrew G. Pineda, M.D.*** is a full time Beverly Hills trained hair transplant specialist who can help you achieve your dream. **CALL NOW!**

BEFORE

AFTER

The Pineda Hair Clinics

MAKATI 8130691 • www.pinedahair.com • DAVAO 082 2212682

s' playoff bid

ses."
ult path
lay posi-
nference
mes will
e in the

e of 18
ms and
on, only
is many
winning

as asked
ll could
re, abso-

irection,
," Ham-
and we

have to right the ship immediately."

Hamblen also described his team as having no margin for error, whether that be in terms of rebounding, getting to the foul line or committing too many turnovers.

"We can't have any kind of breakdowns," Hamblen said, "because we aren't talented enough to overcome that."

The Lakers have spent much of the second half on the road after playing nine consecutive games at Staples Center between the end of January and beginning of February. They failed to take advantage, however, and the schedule caught up to them.

Bryant was asked if things appeared darker to him now than they did even a week ago.

"It's a bigger hill that we have to try and overcome now that we're another game behind," Bryant said. "It's not insurmountable."

New York Times News Service

REUTERS

nk.

th-
ile
re-

lk
m
ng
ts,
ly
US
ti-
off

to
re
A31

Knight, Red Raiders get last 16 slot

TUCSON, Arizona—Ronald Ross scored 24 points and grabbed nine rebounds to lead Texas Tech to a come-from-behind 71-69 victory over Gonzaga in the second round of the NCAA Tournament at the McKale Center.

Jarrius Jackson chipped in 18 points and Martin Zeno added 11 for the Red Raiders (22-10), who advanced to the Sweet 16 for the first time since the 1995-96 campaign.

Texas Tech, seeded sixth in the Albuquerque bracket, will next face West Virginia in the regional semifinals next Thursday.

Ross and temperamental coach Bob Knight hugged in the final seconds as it became obvious that a Knight-coached team would make it to a regional semifinal for the first time since 1994.

Adam Morrison paced the third-seeded Bulldogs with 25 points. Erroll Knight had 14 points and Ronny Turiaf contributed 13 points and 13 boards for Gonzaga (26-5), which had a 13-game winning streak halted.

In Cleveland, Ohio, West Virginia needed double overtime to upset Wake Forest, 111-105, to arrange the showdown with Texas Tech.

Gansey netted 19 of his points in the extra sessions, as he finished 9-of-16 from the floor for the Mountaineers (23-10).

The Mountaineers, seeded seventh in the Albuquerque bracket, reached the second round with a 63-61 win over the No. 10 seed Creighton Bluejays on Thursday.

Taron Downey led the way for the second-seeded Demon Deacons (27-6) with 27 points, connecting on 6-of-13 from three-point distance. Eric Williams ended with 23 points and 13 rebounds, while Chris Paul had 22 points in the losing effort.

In a later game in Boise, Idaho, Nate Robinson poured in a game-high 23 points and Bobby Jones added 19, leading Washington to the Sweet 16 with a 97-79 win over Pacific at the Taco Bell Arena.

Washington, the top seed in its bracket, will next face the winner of the Georgia Tech/Louisville game in the regional semifinals Thursday. It opened its first NCAA Tournament as a top seed with an 88-77 win over Montana. *Reuters*

HOPE
The luxury cigarette
HOPE
LUXURY
FILTER CIGARETTES
MENTHOL KINGS
₱1.00 per stick
suggested retail price
MENTHOL
KING SIZE

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Breakthrough for Delariarte despite a 77

By Musong R. Castillo

CANLUBANG, Laguna—Jherome Delariarte scrambled like the rest on a day of soaring scores yesterday but held on to win his first professional title by one stroke over close pal Cookie La'O with a final-round seven-over 77 in The Country Club Invitational.

The 26-year-old former amateur hotshot lost his overnight two-shot advantage early, regained a piece of the lead midway in the round and wound up clinching P1.1 million for the victory as his challengers fell by the wayside in the closing holes on a windy day.

"It was tough out there," said Delariarte, whose last of eight bogeys on the 72nd hole gave him a 284 total. "I hung in there and I am proud of the way I played.

La'O, fourth in 2003 and third last year, held the lead up to the sixth hole before struggling to a 76 and a 285 aggregate that left him with the P605,000 runner-up purse.

Burly Robert Pactolerin and defending champion Antonio Lascuña also had a chance to win before ending up with 74s and a tie for third spot at 286. The two split P660,000.

Cassius Casas was also going great guns until he tripped in one of the easiest holes on the course and eventually wound up in a tie with Danny Zarate for fifth at 287. Both carded 74s.

Delariarte, who won the P3.8-million tournament wire-to-wire, lost the lead to La'O when he bogeyed his first four holes.

When La'O bogeyed his last three holes on the front nine and Delariarte finished par-bogey-par on the same stretch, Lascuña, Casas and Pactolerin came into the title picture.

Casas, the inaugural-edition champion, drew level with Lascuña, Delariarte and La'O at three-over overall after the 12th. But Casas drove out-of-bounds on the 13th and later four-putted from 18 feet for a quadruple bogey eight that ended his charge.

Lascuña went into his final three holes tied with Delariarte, but failed to get out from the greenside trap on the 16th for a double bogey six.

Then Lascuña lost all hopes of repeating as champion when his second putt for par on the 17th from just a foot away curled out, leaving him with the same fate as Pactolerin, who bogeyed his last two holes.

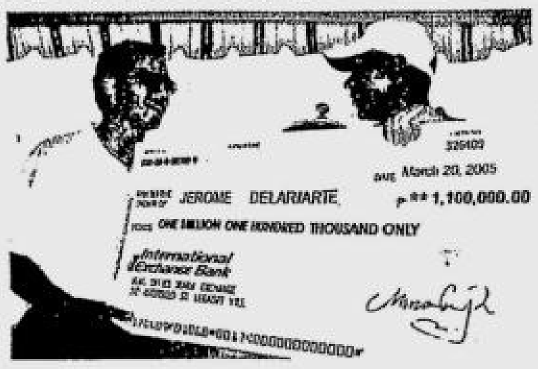
The winds wreaked havoc and with the pins tucked in difficult places, the day's best score proved to be the 73s by Gerald Rosales, Richard Sinfuego and Rogelio Cabajar.

Rosales went on to finish alone in seventh spot with a 289 total, followed by first round co-leader Benjie Magada (75), Mars Pucay (79) and Sinfuego.

Enrique Razon, the port services magnate who bankrolls this tournament to honor the memory of his father, Don Pocholo, was on hand to award the trophy and winner's check to Delariarte.

The final scores:

284—J. Delariarte (68-68-71-77); 285—C. La'O (68-73-68-76); 286—R.Pactolerin (73-67-72-74), A. Lascuña (73-73-66-74); 287—D. Zarate (70-72-71-74), C. Casas (69-72-72-74); 289—G. Rosales (69-71-76-73); 290—R. Sinfuego (76-70-71-73), B. Magada (68-72-75-75), M. Pucay (71-71-69-79); 292—R. Pagunsan (70-77-70-75); 293—R. Cabajar (71-74-75-73), C. Vilaroman (72-69-76-76); 295—E. Salvador (70-72-75-78); 298—E. Ababa (76-74-70-78); 302—Rodrigo. Cuello (78-71-77-76), Ron. Pactolerin (75-72-76-79), Rodollo Cuello (72-76-79-75), R. Marcelo (76-71-79-76); 304—P. Miñoza (70-76-79-79); 308—E. Arcillas (74-76-80-78).


March 20, 2005
JEROME DELARIARTE
₱** 1,100,000.00
ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND ONLY
International Exchange Bank

INSTANT MILLION: **Jherome Delariarte (above, center) is congratulated by buddies Artemio Murakami, (left) and Gerard Rosales after holing out, then receives the winner's oversized check for P1.1 million from The Country Club Invitational sponsor Enrique Razon (left).**

ROMY HOMILLADA

Miñoza ends up in 29th place

SANYA, Hainan, China—Frankie Miñoza closed out with another two-under-par 70 and finished in a respectable tie for 29th place in the $1-million TCL Classic Sunday.

The top Filipino shotmaker wound up with an 11-under-par total of 277, which failed to cause a ripple as the elite field in this event jointly sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour battered the Yalong Bay Golf Club course for four days.

Leading the final round's torrid scoring was a nine-under 63 by Ireland's Paul McGinley, who tied England's Paul Casey for top spot after 72 holes with a 22-under 266.

A Ryder Cupper last year, Casey, who also won the WGC-World Cup with Luke Donald in November, carded a 66 and later won on the second hole of a sudden-death playoff with McGinley.

Chawalit Plaphol of Thailand, co-leader with Colin Montgomerie of Scotland and Casey after the third round, finished with a 67 and wound up in a tie for third at 267 with Thomas Bjorn of Denmark and South Korean Kang Wook-soon.

Bjorn, a European Tour star, scored a 66 and Kang, a two-time Asian Order of Merit champion, had a 65.

Montgomerie finished solo sixth at 268 after managing no more than a 68.

Colin is hoping to crash the top 50 world ranking to qualify for the Masters this April with a lofty finish here.

Miñoza, a Japan Tour regular until he lost his card last year, started the tournament with a 66 but couldn't duplicate his sizzling form in the next three days.

He shot a 71 in the second, somewhat improved to a 70 Saturday and matched that score in the final round on nines of 34-36.

Rosales roars back with a 69, eyes Top 20 finish

SUPERSTITION Mountain, Arizona—Jennifer Rosales came up with her strongest round in three days, shooting a three-under-par 69 Saturday that moved the Filipino ace in contention for a top 20 finish in the $1.4-million Safeway International tournament.

The winner of the LPGA's season-opening tournament in Hawaii last month birdied three of the last six holes in her back nine of 33 and moved up into a four-way tie for 21st place.

Rosales, who had earlier rounds of 72-73, had a 54-hole total of 214, still a distant 11 strokes behind Mexican Lorena Ochoa, who clung to the lead with a 13-under 203 after a 71.

Ochoa was one stroke in front of South Korean Kang Soo-yun, who carded a 70 for 204.

"I think it was a tough day today," Ochoa said. "You can see by the scores, they were higher. The wind changed direction and the course was playing very different."

Swedish superstar Annika Sorenstam was alone in third on 207. Sorenstam, who won here last season and has 57 career victories, shot an even-par 72. She rebounded from a bogey at 17 with a birdie on the last hole to stay within striking distance.

Kang's effort included five birdies, but was marred by three bogeys.

"My iron play was good and my putting was good," Kang said. "But at the ninth hole, I missed a two-foot birdie putt, and after that I lost some confidence."

Teenager Brittany Lincicome made a big move Saturday with a bogey-free 66 that saw her tied for fourth with veteran Juli Inkster at eight-under.

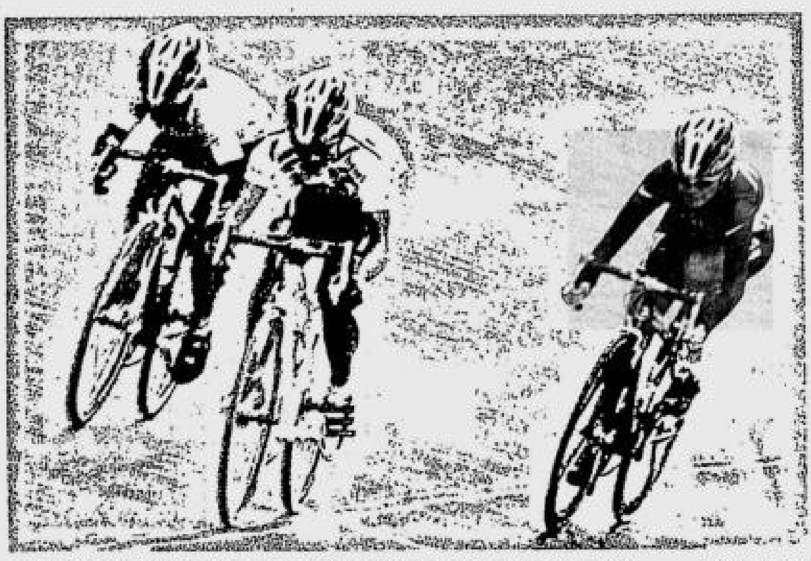
The 19-year-old fired six birdies, three on each side, to follow up consecutive rounds of 71.

Teenage amateur Michelle Wie shot a 73 that included bogeys at 16 and 17 and was tied for 14th on 213.

Ochoa was cruising at three-under for the day before a double-bogey at 16.

She leads after 54 holes for the first time in her career.

AFP



JOEFFREY Talaver (middle) pulls in front in the 1,600-m massed start. JOSEPH AGCAOILI

VELO CHALLENGE

MayniLA's Torres, Elixir riders shine

JERWIN Torres of MayniLA snared two individual junior gold medals and four Elixir Bike Shop riders shone at the start of the First Philippine Velo Challenge at the newly refurbished Amoranto Velodrome in Quezon City Saturday morning.

Torres, a member of the national juniors pool, won for the team of Mayor Lito Atienza gold medals in the 1,600-meter massed start (2:11.99) and 3,000-m individual pursuit in the under-18 division.

Elixir gained a head start in the team competition as multitalented Marites Bitbit topped the women's 1,600-m massed start (2:50.33), Enrique Domingo dominated the men's class (2:10.39), Gerardo Amar towed the field in the Veterans' category (2:31.80) and Ricardo Maala ruled the Executives class (2:23.50).

Joeffrey Talaver made it a three-gold haul for MayniLA by claiming the first gold medal in the Elite men's 1,600-m massed start in 2:06.16 in the inaugural Velo Challenge that is co-presented by the First Gentleman Foundation of lawyer Jose Miguel Arroyo and Air21 (Sagot Ko, Padala Mo!) and Tour Pilipinas Inc.

Team Puerto Princesa City of Mayor Edward Hagedorn also took two gold medals courtesy of 2002 Tour of Calabarzon winner Santy Barnachea in the 10-km Elite men's points race (25 points) and Virgilio Valenzuela in the Masters' 1,600-m massed start (2:21.94).

Alfie Catalan, a former national team member.and ex-rider of the Pagcor Casino Filipino continental team, ruled the Elite men's 4,000-m individual pursuit for Team Wescor in 5:21.00.

PhilCycling president Bert Lina, the Customs Commissioner, declared the Velo Challenge open during the opening ceremonies of the event also participated in by teams adopted by the Tagaytay International Convention Center through Mayor Abraham Tolentino and Quezon City of Mayor Sonny Belmonte.

Philippine Sports Commissioner Jose Mundo, Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza, Philippine Olympic Committee deputy secretary general Buddy Andrada and Amoranto Sports Complex administrator Andy Apostol also graced the ceremonies of the 10-day event which also has Pagcor as major supporter and the PSC, the POC, Isuzu D-Max (the Philippines' No. 1 Pickup), Sharp Phils., San Miguel Corp., dzSR Sports Radio, Vittoria Tires, 93.9 iFM, RMN dzXL 558, David's Salon and Intrasports as backers.

Racing resumes this Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. The other racing dates are set for April 2, 7, 12, 14, 19 and 26; and May 3 and 7.

Lockout in the SEA Games

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THERE is no question that the financial contributions of wealthy individuals and corporate sponsors will be vital for the survival and eventual success of this year's Southeast Asian Games. Sponsors' money will keep the SEA Games going.

And I agree with former Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit when he said in a recent interview with Bulletin's sports editor Ding Marcelo that "having two marketing arms to seek commercial sponsors for the Southeast Asian Games is counterproductive and will result in less income for the organizers."

Dayrit made this observation after Philsoc (Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee) chair Robert Pagdanganan announced that Inter Sports Marketing, the Malaysia-based fund-raiser of the last four SEA Games, has lost its exclusive right to market the Games by allowing another marketing company, Corplan Inc., to also solicit sponsors for the Games.

"I don't think that's a good idea," said Dayrit, adding two marketing firms cannot negotiate from a position of strength.

But Pagdanganan disagreed, saying, "If at all, it allows us to cover more ground because now, there are two groups looking for sponsors for the Games."

Still, only Globe Telecoms has sealed a major sponsorship deal, committing P100 million to the Games. No major sponsor was officially announced during the recent Philsoc marketing launch although the committee stressed it has already generated a P640-million commitment from the government and private sectors. Philsoc needs P1.2 billion to finance this year's Games set for Nov. 27-Dec. 5.

Aside from Inter Sports and Corplan, also raising funds for the Games are First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo and POC president and Philsoc vice chair Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

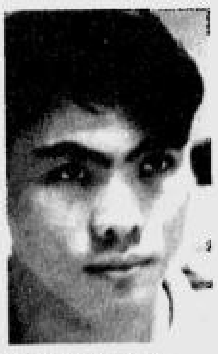
In batting for a lockout, Dayrit said the exclusivity right of one marketing group should be upheld because that would benefit the organizers in the end. Even the International Olympic Committee adheres to a "single marketing program" that guarantees exclusivity for all sponsors and which has been an IOC requirement for all Olympic Games. Sponsorships are now limited and strict; less, giving more, is now widely practiced because it has proven to be very successful in the past beginning with the 1984 Los Angeles Games.

One of the most profitable Olympics in modern times, the 1984 LA Games reduced the number of corporate sponsors from an unwieldy 628 at the Montreal Olympics in 1976 to a manageable 34 official sponsors, 64 suppliers and 65 licensees. The LA Olympic Organizing Committee, headed by marketing wizard Peter Ueberroth, checked past commercial clutter with a well-executed corporate program of sponsor, supplier and licensee categories each with distinct rights and exclusivity.

Since the beginning of the modern Olympics in Athens in 1896, the commercialization of sports and its attendant marketing scheme has always played an important role. French nobleman Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the "father of the modern Olympics," sold stamps, souvenir coins, program advertisements and tickets and solicited private donations to shoulder the cost of hosting the Games. At present, the Games also derive huge revenues from television rights and corporate sponsorships such as the American television network, NBC, and Atlanta-based Coca-Cola, the longest, continuous sponsor of the Olympics starting in 1928 when Amsterdam hosted the Games. For its part, NBC paid the IOC a record $2.3 billion for the TV rights alone of the Olympics in 2004, 2006 and 2008.

In this year's SEA Games, one fund-raising scheme would be the sale of postage stamps. Sports philately is not only a source of revenue but it would also bring the Filipinos closer to sports, aside from generating thousands of dollars from the influx of tourists. Although sports stamps were issued in the past, these were mainly focused on sports disciplines like track and field, boxing, swimming, basketball, cycling and soccer.

I suggest that great Filipino athletes appear individually on these 2005 SEA Games stamps. Among the sports legends worth emulating in this series of stamps (a set of four would be ideal) are four-time World Bowling Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno, tennis player Felicisimo "Totoy" Ampon, boxing champions Pancho Villa and Flash Elorde, swimmer Teofilo Yldefonso, high jump champions Simeon Toribio and Andres Franco, basketball superstars Carlos Loyzaga and Robert Jaworski, track and field legends Lydia de Vega, Elma Muros and Mona Sulaiman, billiards icon Efren "Bata" Reyes and chess grandmaster Eugene Torre, to name a few.



BITOON: Upset

Dimakiling, Pacis share lead

Standings after round 6:

5.5—FM O. Dimakiling, FM A. Pacis; 4.5—FM J. Sales, NM N. Alisangco, NM A. Milagrosa, B. Valencia, Z. Amir

FIDE Masters Oliver Dimakiling and Adrian Pacis posted contrasting victories yesterday to share the lead after the sixth round of the Candon City chess tournament at the KEA Mall and Fun Center in San Nicolas, Candon City, Ilocos Sur.

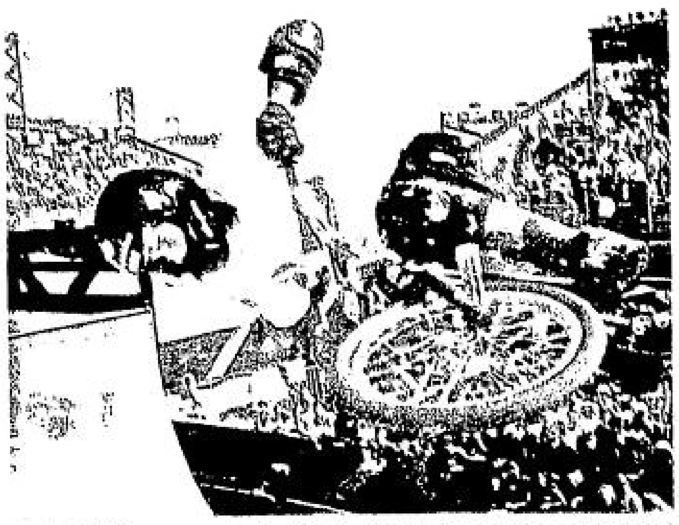
Dimakiling of Davao City clobbered top-seeded International Master Richard Bitoon of Cebu in 35 moves of a Ruy Lopez Opening, while Pacis of Mandaluyong downed NM Rustom Tolentino of Cagayan de Oro City in 25 moves of a Sicilian Defense.

Sharing the limelight was NM Alex Milagrosa, who demolished the French Defense of Michael Manago in 47 moves.

Other matches saw Jesse Noel Sales and Nicomedes Alisangco settling for a truce after 46 moves of a Slav Defense, Belsar Valencia outplaying Benigno Mariano in 39 of a Nimzo Indian Defense, and Zomer Amir stopping Dr. Jenny Mayor in 35 of a Sicilian Defense.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Daredevil biker is also an angel



BENEATH the crazy exterior lies the Mat Hoffman who sees the need to help those ravaged by the Asian tsunami crisis.

By Jasmine W. Payo

BY NOW, elite X-Game athlete Mat Hoffman has become accustomed to stereotypical impressions.

But the undisputed king of bike stunts often insists there's more than just "mohawks and tattoos" in his daredevil sport.

And Hoffman knows that people would be surprised after he and 13 other X-Game athletes decided to donate a portion of their fees in the Thailand X Games Cup to the children orphaned by the tsunami tragedy.

"When we saw the extent of the disaster in that area, we were really hoping there was some way we could contribute to efforts and help start the mending process," said Hoffman in a recent phone patch interview.

Hoffman, nicknamed "The Condor," will be flashing freestyle riding stunts at the Huamak Indoor Stadium in Bangkok from March 25 to 27.

Other athletes participating in the ESPN/Star Sports event are fellow BMX riders Jamie Bestwick and Kevin Robinson, aggressive inline skaters Yasutoko Brothers from Japan and Fabiola da Silva from Brazil, and skateboarders Bob Burnquist and Sandro Diaz.

"Every session is different and with the caliber of riders that will be there, it'll be crazy," said Hoffman.

Fifteen top Thai athletes from Bicycle Stunt Park, Aggressive In-Line, Skateboarding Park and Wakeboarding will also be competing for slots in the Asian X-Games 2005 in Seoul, Korea, in May.

Although Hoffman won't disclose any particular stunt he'll be performing, talking about the game is enough to get him all pumped up.

"It's such a dynamic sport and people are always creating something new," the 33-year-old American said. "I know how much this sport has progressed and I don't ever fear that it will stop."

And there's certainly no stopping Hoffman, who has an unenviable list of 400 injuries and 18 operations in his medical records.

He admitted, however, that he still gets the occasional jitters.

"Things do scare me but you have to use fear to stimulate the rest of your senses to respond and perform to the best of your ability," said Hoffman. "I can get a little nervous. It's a risky sport and you don't know what's going to happen."

Hoffman added that having his own family, in fact, inspired him to push his skills to the limit.

"My wife and son and daughter are one of the purest forms of inspiration I've ever had," he said. "I thought I'd mellow out when I became a father but I started doing more crazy things because I was so psyched."

But Hoffman knows that he can't be a rider for life. Thus, he has already drawn up some long-term goals—all bike-related, of course.

He plans to put up a bike designing and manufacturing business, write another book to follow up his 2002 autobiography "Testimony: The Ride of My Life," and make another BMX video game.

"I'll always be a BMXer, it's who I am," he said.

Epson Cup badminton leveling extended

DUE to numerous requests, organizers of Epson Cup 2 will hold a pair of special leveling sessions at the Pioneer Badminton Center.

Tournament director EG Lim will conduct the special leveling today and tomorrow at the PBC on Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City beginning at 6 p.m. The leveling fee is P50.

Sanctioned by the Philippine Badminton Association, Epson Cup 2 will hold its qualifying rounds at the Olympic Badminton Club in Libis, Quezon City, on April 9-10 while the semifinals and finals will be held at the Greenhills Badminton Center in San Juan on April 15-17.

The event is sponsored by Shell, Wilson, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Citibank, Apple Center, Konica (Photo Columbia), Mizuno, UNO Magazine, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT, Yehey.com, PBNet, Fitness First and Ridgewood Residence-Baguio.

Epson marketing manager Randy Kanapi said active and former national team players are barred from joining the tournament, which seeks to discover talented players from the grassroots level.

"The national players can provide great competition but we're more concerned with discovering new talents to sustain the growth of the sport in the country," said Kanapi.

Tournament chair Edmin Tarriela said participants in the week-long event are still pouring in even after the regular leveling sessions in past weeks.

Registration fee for the main tournament is pegged at P500. For inquiries, call Pioneer Badminton Center at 638-5343, 746-0828.

With a major in mind…

From page A28

that LPGA pros receive three dozen free balls each week. Five years later, she has learned the logistics and become a seasoned veteran.

"She's matured a lot," said her younger sister, Divina, who caddied for Dorothy part of her rookie year and now works in the pro shop at Harding. "Being on tour is a really lonely life, especially when you're that young. You're so used to having family support around."

Delasin, who lives in Albuquerque, has since grown accustomed to the separation. She now wades in the trappings of an established professional athlete, from endorsements to a swing coach (Gathright), personal trainer (Chris Frankel) and agent (Mark Freeland).

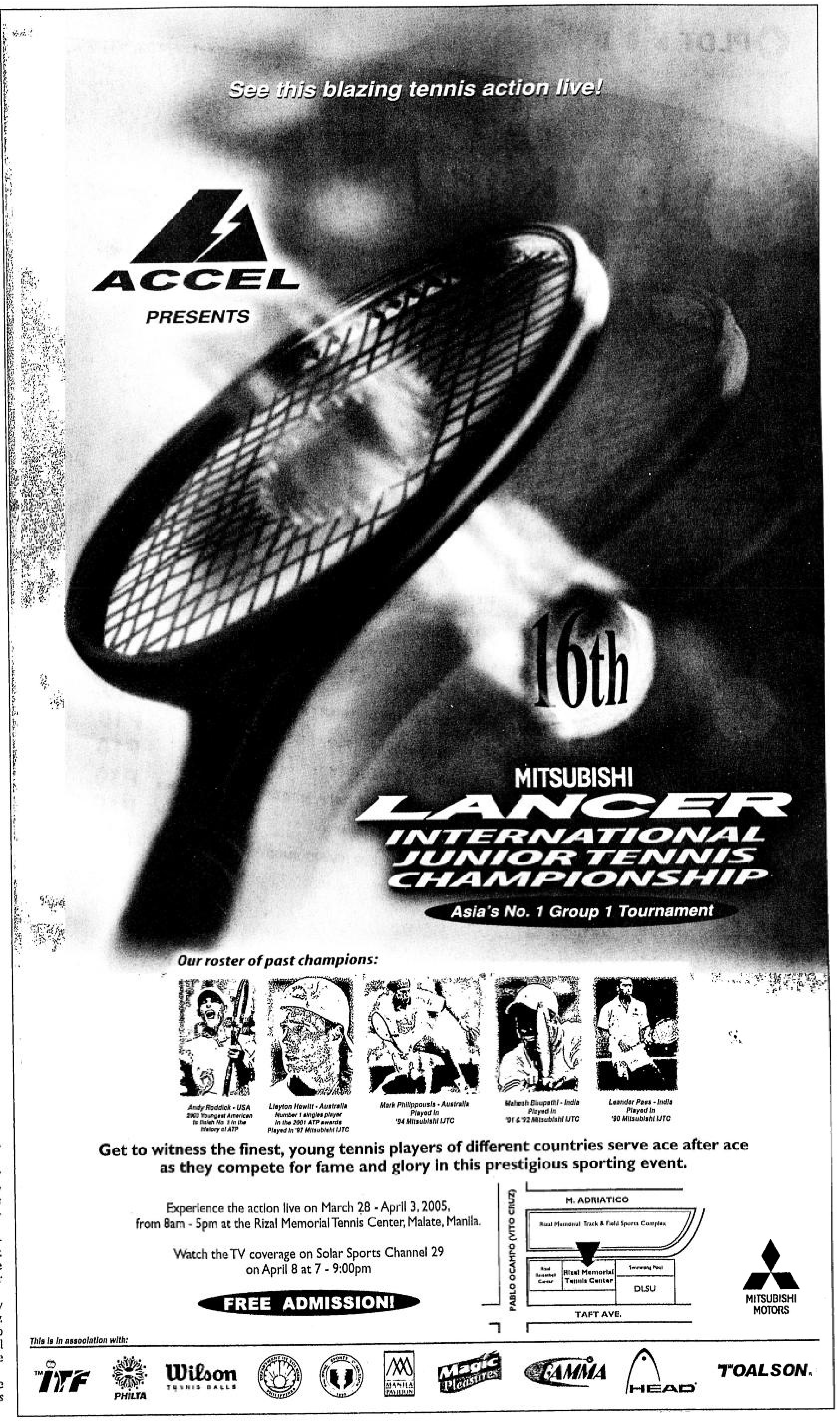
She made the connections through former Stanford golfer Notah Begay III, whom Delasin met at a California Golf Writers Dinner in 1999. Begay's brother, Clint, is Delasin's caddie. Her father, who also caddied for Delasin during her rookie year, is clearly wary of the entourage.

"It was kind of a hard thing, because I left my dad out of the loop," she said. "Since I didn't go to college, it was my way of breaking away from the nest and going out on my own. My dad didn't really understand that."

So she's grown up now, no longer the 10-year-old merely dreaming of becoming a pro golfer. Delasin still emits a youthful glow, as when she said she hasn't been this excited since her junior days in the Bay Area.

The stakes are higher, of course, especially with the season's first major only four days away. Delasin twice has contended at the Nabisco, so she can visualize herself taking the traditional champion's leap into the water alongside the 18th green.

"Who knows, I might be jumping in that lake on Sunday," Delasin said. *New York Times News Service*



See this blazing tennis action live!
ACCEL
PRESENTS
16th
MITSUBISHI
LANCER
INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP
Asia's No. 1 Group 1 Tournament
Our roster of past champions:
Andy Roddick - USA 2003 Youngest American to finish No. 1 in the history of ATP
Lleyton Hewitt - Australia Number 1 singles player in the 2001 ATP awards Played in '97 Mitsubishi IJTC
Mark Philippousis - Australia Played in '94 Mitsubishi IJTC
Mahesh Bhupathi - India Played in '91 & '92 Mitsubishi IJTC
Leander Paes - India Played in '90 Mitsubishi IJTC

Get to witness the finest, young tennis players of different countries serve ace after ace as they compete for fame and glory in this prestigious sporting event.

Experience the action live on March 28 - April 3, 2005, from 8am - 5pm at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center, Malate, Manila.

Watch the TV coverage on Solar Sports Channel 29 on April 8 at 7 - 9:00pm

FREE ADMISSION!

M. ADRIATICO
Rizal Memorial Track & Field Sports Complex
Rizal Memorial Tennis Center
Swimming Pool
DLSU
PABLO OCAMPO (VITO CRUZ)
TAFT AVE.
MITSUBISHI MOTORS
This is in association with:
ITF
PHILTA
Wilson TENNIS BALLS
MANILA PAVILION
Magic Pleasures
GAMMA
HEAD
TOALSON.

NEW!
PATENTED
X-TRAIL
BUMPER OVERIDER
with/ REINFORCED RIGID STEEL FRAME
SHARK ACCESSORIES
ROOF CADDY & CADDY MATE
LOW MOUNT, NO-CROSSBAR INSTALLATION.
REAR STEP GEAR
WITH BRAKE LIGHTS AND OPTIONAL BUILT-IN BACKING SENSORS.
SHARK STEPBOARDS
AERO BLACK SERIES With COURTESY LIGHTS
OVAL STEPTUBE STAINLESS STEPTUBE With TURNING LIGHTS
TITANIUM SERIES With COURTESY LIGHTS
SURESTEP 1013A EDSA, VETERAN'S VILLAGE, PROJ. 7, QUEZON CITY TEL.; 410-3067/65 • 372-3640

SPEED Advantage, with jockey Antonio Alcasid Jr. on top, glides to the finish at Sta. Ana. JESS YUSON

'Speed' just too fast for rivals

Thwarts Real Spicy, rules Chairman's Cup

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

SPEED Majesty played the rabbit's role to perfection and Speed Advantage got a big lift from it to win the Chairman's Cup at the Santa Ana Park yesterday.

After biding his time in third in the early going as Speed Majesty set the pace, Speed Advantage stormed to the lead at the far turn and easily drew away from Euro Bucks to prevail by three lengths in the 1,600-meter contest.

Hot favorite Real Spicy got off to an anemic start and, charging too late, barely nipped Euro Bucks for second spot.

Actually, Speed Majesty's tremendous burst from the gates hampered Real Spicy's start, leaving the 2004 Juvenile Champion in an unfamiliar ninth spot when the field rounded the first bend.

Heavy punishment

The Hermie Esguerra Stable entry rushed home under heavy punishment from Pat Dilema and succeeded only in pipping Euro Bucks as Speed Advantage safely crossed the wire under the deft handling of veteran Antonio Alcasid Jr.

Real Spicy's connections placed the race under protest but it was nullified, allowing Speed Advantage to claim the event touted as a preview of the opening leg of this year's Triple Crown series.

"*Maganda ang puwesto niya sa umpisa at talagang kundisyon siya* (He was well positioned from the start and he's really in perfect shape)," said Alcasid of the bay colt sired by Royal Premiere out of Trudy Capote.

The Yutadco Stable, known for horses bearing the "Speed" tag, got the P600,000 first prize from the sponsoring Philracom under chair Jimmy Dilag.

"*Ini-hahanda na talaga siya sa* Triple Crown (He's being honed for the Triple Crown)," said winning trainer Mario dela Paz. "I hope his peak form stays."

Twin losses

Real Spicy, who strutted into the race hoping to avenge his twin losses to Speed Majesty last year, settled for P225,000 and saw his victory run halted at seven. Euro Bucks got P125,000.

Completing the order of finish in the race held in honor of PCSO head Sergio Valencia were Golden Fantasy, In Command, Montezuma, D As In Dixie, Thywillbedone, One Vision, Joint Account and Speed Majesty.

When Speed Majesty darted out of the eighth gate, Real Spicy, breaking from box No. 7, was thrown to the left, losing precious ground and failing to challenge the eventual winner who eventually negotiated the race in 1:40 flat (23-24-25-28).

As in their last meeting, Speed Majesty was tracked by Joint Account but the latter could not latch on to the pacesetter as Alcasid confidently drove Speed Advantage to within striking range.

It was Euro Bucks who tackled Speed Advantage as they rounded the home turn but Alcasid's mount was just too good for Real Spicy's coupled bet.

The win could have been the 10th in a row for Speed Advantage, whose record was blemished when he lost via disqualification to Euro Bucks on March 2.

Dilag joined Valencia in awarding the prizes to Speed Advantage's connections.

La Salle, Ateneo top eTelecare badminton

LA SALLE outclassed Far Eastern U to put away the collegiate title, while Ateneo lorded it over among alumni teams in the First eTelecare Collegiate and Alumni Invitational Badminton Cup 2005 at the Power Smash Badminton Courts in Makati City recently.

The Taft Avenue-based Archers grabbed the title from FEU, which pipped University of San Tomas for second place in the collegiate division. University of the East wound up fourth.

The undefeated Ateneo shuttlers dominated the Alumni division among teams composed of former varsity players with a clean record.

FEU also placed second, followed by Polytechnic University of the Philippines

The eTelecare Badminton Cup is organized by call center giant eTelecare Global Solutions, in partnership with the Philippine Badminton Association, Prince Badminton and Addict Mobile.

PLDT NDD
Sangkatutak Na Saya No. 7

PROMISE!
P10 LANG
ANG NASA PLDT BILL MO!!
EXTENDED UP TO APRIL 11

PLDT PAYMENT STUB
8451250
Statement as of Feb 26 2005
MICHELLE BORROMEO
ABEJA ST., OLYMPIA
MAKATI CITY
CALL DETAILS PLDT NDD

FROM (NO.)	TO (NO.)	DURATION	AMOUNT
02-8451250	0918-5110038 (SMART BUDDY)	2 hrs	P10
02-8451250	0918-9280647 (SMART GOLD)	40 mins	P10
02-8451250	(032)2734925 (CEBU)	55 mins	P10
02-8451250	0910-2243837 (TALK 'N TEXT)	1 hr 20 mins	P10
02-8451250	(082)2250005 (DAVAO)	25 mins	P10
02-8451250	0918-5341659 (SMART BUDDY)	1 hr	P10

It's true! Ten Pesos lang ang lalabas sa bill mo.
Unlimited chikahan, ten pesos lang!
- PLDT to PLDT NDD
- PLDT to SMART/Talk 'N Text

Tawag lang nang tawag!

See actual PLDT bill for more details. Rate of P10 is VAT-inclusive. This will be presented as P9.09 (VAT-exclusive) in the PLDT monthly bill.

'Di ka pa naka PLDT landline? Pa-install ka na, now na! So you can get a FREE BILOBA CORDLESS PHONE worth P3,000.00!

FREE
CALL 171
PLDT
Iba Pa Rin Ang May PLDT Landline
Abangan!
Sangkatutak Na Saya Na May Kasunod Pa!

- PLDT-PLDT NDD Calls below P10 will be charged based on regular rate.
- Offer is not valid for the following: (1) Operator-assisted calls, and (2) Participating PAPTELCO subscribers call to Smart or Talk 'N Text.

Union
Since 1960
45 years
ELECTRIC FANS
Basta Ibas! Yun Yan!

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

HUBBY likes her skirts short.

Sunshine: Cesar thinks I'm sexy

OUT OF THE CLOSET

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

ACTRESS Sunshine Cruz says she and her 3-year-old daughter, Angelina Isabel, have different fashion preferences.

Shine likes wearing jeans and shirts; the girl wears nothing but dresses. "To make her wear pants—*sapilitan talaga* (you will have to force her)," Shine tells INQUIRER Entertainment during a visit to her home in Quezon City. "She would always say 'I'm Barbie, I'm beautiful, I'm Cinderella.' *Kikay talaga*."

Samantha Angelina, Shine's second daughter with award-winning actor Cesar Montano, is only 7 months old.

"I would wear dresses only to attend special occasions," Shine says. "I'd get around in denim jeans and T-shirts and, recently, mini-skirts—*pero* denims *pa rin*."

Sunshine explains her newfound liking for mini-skirts: "Buboy (Cesar's nickname) saw me in a mini-skirt once and said I looked sexy and should wear it more often. Last month, I bought five from Abercrombie. My favorite is the one in faded blue, because it was the one I was wearing when he complimented me."

For six months, the Montanos lived in a condominium unit in Greenhills. This was while their two-story Quezon City home was renovated. "We moved back in last February," says Shine. "We're still fixing our things."

Shine says Cesar turned a portion of the house into an office for his production outfit, CM Films. And what used to be their bedroom on the ground floor is now the theater room.

On the second floor are three rooms, one of which serves as Cesar and Shine's dressing area. "Do you know that Buboy has more closets than I do? It's so unfair," says Shine.

SUNSHINE/ A2-2

SPLURGE on good brushes.

LUCKY sandals

skin care and beyond
FOR ALL YOUR SKIN CARE NEEDS AND BEAUTY WANTS CONSULT OUR DERMATOLOGISTS AND COSMETIC SURGEONS
DERMATOLOGIC SERVICES:
ACNE SURGERY • ACNE INFECTION • MILIA
WARTS • SYRINGOMA • SKIN ALLERGY • MELASMA
FRECKLES • SKIN PEEL • POWER PEEL • BOTOX
LASER HAIR REMOVAL • DERMA FILLERS
ALOPECIA • DANDRUFF TREATMENT
COSMETICS SURGERY SERVICES:
TUMESCENT LIPOSUCTION • NOSE LIFT • BLEPHAROPLASTY
(EYEBBAG REMOVAL OR DEEPSET) • FACE LIFT • TUMMY TUCK
• BREAST AUGMENTATION
LET'S FACE IT
THE ONE STOP FACIAL SALON
BRANCHES:
SOON TO OPEN: CITY MALL OLONGAPO & ROBINSON'S PIONEER, MANDALUYONG

Sa Tipid Trips, malayo ang mararating ng pera mo!
For as low as P900 makaka-biyahe ka na!
Manila to Dumaguit or Roxas: P900
Manila to Bacolod or Iloilo: P1370
Manila to Cebu: P1520
Manila to Puerto Princesa: P1595
Manila to Cagayan de Oro: P1600
Manila to Davao: P2030
Rates stated above are for SuperValue without meals. Promo rates with and without meals for other destinations and accommodations are also available. Promo period is from March 16 to June 15, 2005. Rates from Manila or vice versa.
SuperFerry
happy trip ◡̈
CALL NOW! (02)528-7000 for Manila or (032)233-7000 for Cebu or mag-text na sa 0918-9942421.

SHANG CINEPLEX

❶ ROBOTS
MTRCB: GP
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF

❷ CONFIDENCE
MTRCB: R-13
12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 LMF

❸ HOSTAGE
MTRCB: R-13
11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 LMF

❹ PACIFIER
MTRCB: GP
12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55 LMF

PREMIERE THEATRE MILLION DOLLAR BABY
MTRCB PG-13 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00 LMF
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special
Enjoy 20% discount on Matinee Show tickets at the Cineplex, except on selected blockbuster movies.
From Monday to Friday: all Matinee Shows screenings are scheduled before 4pm.

Enjoy Double Treats
Get one (1) free URBANSPA Express Massage or a P250 Urban Spa cash coupon for every single purchase of four (4) Shang Cineplex (Cinema 1-4) or Two (2) Premiere Theatre tickets.
See posters and flyers for details
Per DTI NCR Permit No. A3 183, Series of 2005

Regular Ticket Price
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150
Premiere Theatre - P295 (includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 / 633-4735 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Bahay ni Lola
4 Shaolin vs Evil Dead
5 Renovation

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 Pacifier
2 Robots
3 Hostage
4 Bahay ni Lola
5 Shaolin vs Evil Dead
6 Ms. Congeniality 2

starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 873.50.04
1 Constantine
2 Reserved

For movie schedules visit www.clickthecity.com

SOME of the reasons she sequestered Cesar's shoe shelf

AN ACTION HERO FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
OPENS MARCH 30
MTRCB RATING ▶ G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED

Sneak Previews Today!
Walt Disney Pictures presents
vin DIESEL is the PACIFIER
in association with Spyglass Entertainment
WELCOME TO THE INFANTRY.
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

FAVORITE sleepwear

Sunshine: Cesar thinks I'm sexy

From page A2-1

"So what I do is, if I buy 10 new dresses, I give away my 10 oldest ones. Just recently, I stole his shoe racks. He asked a carpenter to make him a bigger one. He vowed not to share it with me. We'll see about that."

SHOES. "These Pretty Fit high-heeled shoes are really memorable. I got them in Thailand last February, when Buboy and I renewed our marriage vows there. The style intrigued me. They look like ballet shoes with heels. And they're comfortable.

"I hardly ever wear closed-toe sandals because my feet hurt. That's why I make sure that if I buy a pair, they're really comfy. My favorite is the Nine West pair that I wore at the Metro Manila Film Festival awards last December.

"These silver strapped sandals are my lucky charm. Whenever I wear these to awards shows, I always win Female Star of the Night, as I did during the recent Golden Screen Awards.

"Buboy loves rubber shoes. Whenever he buys a pair, he also gets one for me. *Kaya lang*, he picks weird colors—the kind that's difficult to match with clothes. I just keep them because they're from him. But if I could choose, I'd have them in blue or white.

"I wear boots only for TV appearances, like when I used to be a regular on "ASAP Mania," or when I travel abroad in the winter.

"During one of our trips in the US, Buboy bought himself a pair of boots in Aldo. He knew I was looking for a beige pair so he brought me to that store. I got this for "ASAP" (shows a high-heeled, zip-up pair). *Kaya lang*, when we got back, I found out that I was pregnant. I never got to wear this. *Sayang naman.*"

TOPS. "I like all the clothes that Petit Monde provides for me (she's the clothing company's endorser). I have them in pastel colors. I've been wearing Petit

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) ROBOTS GP
2 (DOLBY) CONFIDENCE R13
3 (DOLBY) HOSTAGE R13
4 (DOLBY) PACIFIER GP
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) MILLION DOLLAR BABY PG13

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 ROBOTS
2 BAHAY NI LOLA
3 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
4 HOSTAGE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 BAHAY NI LOLA
2 HOSTAGE
3 SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 BAHAY NI LOLA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
5 RENOVATION

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 PACIFIER
2 ROBOTS
3 HOSTAGE
4 BAHAY NI LOLA
5 (DOLBY) SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) CONSTANTINE
2 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
2 (SDDS) HITCH
3 (DTS) ROBOTS
4 GOLD (DTS) CONSTANTINE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) HOSTAGE
6 GOLD (SDDS) MILLION DOLLAR BABY
7 GOLD (DOLBY) ROBOTS
8 (SRNG) BAHAY NI LOLA
9 (SRNG) CURSE
10 FINAL CUT

Araneta Center CINEMA GUIDE
For Inquiries Pls. Call TICKETNET 911-5555
GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10
Level 4, Gateway Mall
The First and Only Real Cineplex in the Philippines!
ALL THEATERS IN DOLBY EX ULTRA SOUND, FULL STADIUM SEATING AND EXCLUSIVE VISTA COMPUTER TICKET SYSTEM GUARANTEED SEATS, NO STANDING ROOM.
HOSTAGE
HITCH
MILLION DOLLAR BABY
LEMONY SNICKET'S
PASSION OF THE CHRIS
BAHAY NI LOLA 2
CONSTANTINE
ROBOTS
CURSED

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
2 HOSTAGE
3 ROBOTS
4 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
5 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 BAHAY NI LOLA
2 BUKO PANDAN
3 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
4

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BAHAY NI LOLA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 (DTS EX) ROBOTS
4 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 BAHAY NI LOLA
2 WEREWOLF
3 (DOLBY) MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
4 (DTS) ROBOTS

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 INFECTION
3 (DOLBY) THE AVIATOR
4 (DTS) CONSTANTINE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 INFECTION
2 LEMONY SNICKETS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) PACIFIER
2 (DOLBY) MS. CONGENIALITY 2
3 (DOLBY) ROBOTS
4 (DOLBY) HOSTAGE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 FINAL CUT
2 (DTS) BAHAY NI LOLA
3 (DOLBY) ROBOTS
4 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 BAHAY NI LOLA
2 (DOLBY) FINAL CUT
3 (DTS) ROBOTS
4 MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 INFECTION
3 (DOLBY) CONSTANTINE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 BUNSHINSABA
2 INFECTION
3 (DOLBY) MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
4 (DTS) CONSTANTINE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 BUNSHINSABA
2 BAHAY NI LOLA
3 (DOLBY) MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) CHAIN OF COMMAND
2 WALANG MALISYA
3 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
4 (DTS) CONSTANTINE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 BAHAY NI LOLA
3 (DTS) ROBOTS
4 BUKID AY BASA
5 FINAL CUT

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
2 INFECTION
3 (DTS) BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
4 (DOLBY) THE AVIATOR

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 HITCH
2 LEMONY SNICKETS
3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 FINAL CUT

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 BUKID AY BASA
2 SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Araneta Center
Entertainment Guide

CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway CINEPLEX*10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
Online Vista Ticket Computer System
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
ONLY P99 ADMISSION • P120 RESERVED SEATS
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

HOSTAGE
12:00 / 2:30 / 5:00 / 7:30 / 10:00
HITCH
1:15 / 3:50 / 6:25 / 9:00
MILLION DOLLAR BABY
12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00
SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20
THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
BAHAY NI LOLA 2
1:10 / 3:10 / 5:10 / 7:10 / 9:10
CONSTANTINE
12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50
ROBOTS
1:10 / 3:10 / 5:10 / 7:10 / 9:10
CURSED
12:35 / 2:45 / 4:55 / 7:05 / 9:15
Sneak Prev. - THE PACIFIER on March 21, 22 & 23

ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ BAHAY NI LOLA 2
12:10 / 2:10 / 4:10 / 6:10 / 8:10
❷ HOSTAGE
12:55 / 3:25 / 5:55 / 8:25
❸ ROBOTS
12:10 / 2:10 / 4:10 / 6:10 / 8:10
❹ BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
❺ SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
11:20 / 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM SHOWS
OLPH LENTEN RETREAT (FREE ENTRY)
March 24,25 & 26, 8am to 12nn
SHALOM LENTEN RETREAT (FREE ENTRY)
March 24,25 & 26, 2pm to 10pm
THE CASCADES: LIVE IN MANILA
April 15 Friday, 8pm
RIVERMAYA & KITCHIE NADAL LIVE!
April 16, Saturday, 8pm
MARTIN NIEVERA & PATTI AUSTIN IN CONCERT
April 22, Friday, 8pm
JA RULE LIVE IN MANILA
April 23, Saturday, 8pm

CENTER EVENTS
FORNARINA CLEARANCE SALE
Get up to 50% off on clothes, shoes and accessories.
Upper Ground Floor, Gateway Mall
ongoing until April 15
VAN HEUSEN DRESS SHIRT SALE
Get up to 50% off on assorted dress shirts.
Ground Floor, Gateway Mall
ongoing until March 31
OLYMPIC VILLAGE SUMMER PROMO
Get a FREE pair of shades for every P1000 purchase.
Ground Floor, Gateway Mall
ongoing until March 31
GUARANA LIVE!
Groove to the swinging samba beat of this renowned Latin band!
Friday & Saturday, 9:30 pm onwards
The Gazebo, Gateway Mall

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

SINGULAR weakness: Louis Vuitton bags

HER first bottle of Escada proved to be a wise purchase.

BLACK lingerie for feeling-sexy nights

BOTTOM half of Tweety sweater

ULTRA-FEMININE stuff for formal occasions

FAVORITE Petit Monde jeans

Monde since I was 16. Abercrombie is my favorite foreign brand.

"I love the color pink, like this Abercrombie top. I wear it whenever I feel depressed. The color cheers me up.

DRESSES. "I like black in dresses. The newest piece I bought is the one I wore at the special screening of 'The Great Raid' at the US Embassy. I was in a rush when I bought this. I didn't realize the neckline was so low. It was a good thing that the bra I wore that night was the lacy kind, I didn't mind exposing it.

"I got to wear this two-piece outfit from Petit Monde only in a pictorial. I like the baby blue color. It's very girly.

"Another cute Petit Monde outfit is this pink halter-dress that I've worn only once—when Buboy and I had dinner at a classy restaurant.

"I actually don't like dresses that are too revealing. I just get those that catch my attention."

JEANS. "I'm not saying this to promote the brand, but the best pair of jeans I own is by Petit Monde. I would not trade it for any other pair. I wear it all the time (gets the pair of denims from the laundry basket). This used to be a lot bluer. I like how the color faded. I've been wearing this for four years now.

"When you buy jeans, always buy for comfort. Make sure you try them on to check the butt area. Sometimes, jeans that are tight on the thighs are too loose in the butt area."

SLEEPWEAR. "I often go to bed in my Tweety Bird pajamas and top. This is when I feel girly. When I'm in the mood for sexy outfits, I wear my black lingerie."

COSMETICS. "I'm one of those people who don't know how to put make-up on. I don't use my make-up artist's cosmetics. I have my own. I like Shu Uemura and Mac. Other brands give me rashes.

"I even buy brushes from Shu Uemura. They're kind of expensive but they're worth every peso because I get to use them for a long, long time. My dad [the late Danny Velez Cruz of the 747 Band] brought me Shu Uemura brushes from his last trip to Japan. He said that when he was paying for it, *namutla siya* (he turned pale). He had no idea how expensive they were.

"It's okay to buy cheap brands, as long as they don't harm your skin. Like me, I own a few Ever Bilena products. But if you plan on investing on cosmetics, go for the reliable brands like Mac and Shu Uemura. *Ikaw din ang mahihirapan* (You will suffer) if your skin gets irritated."

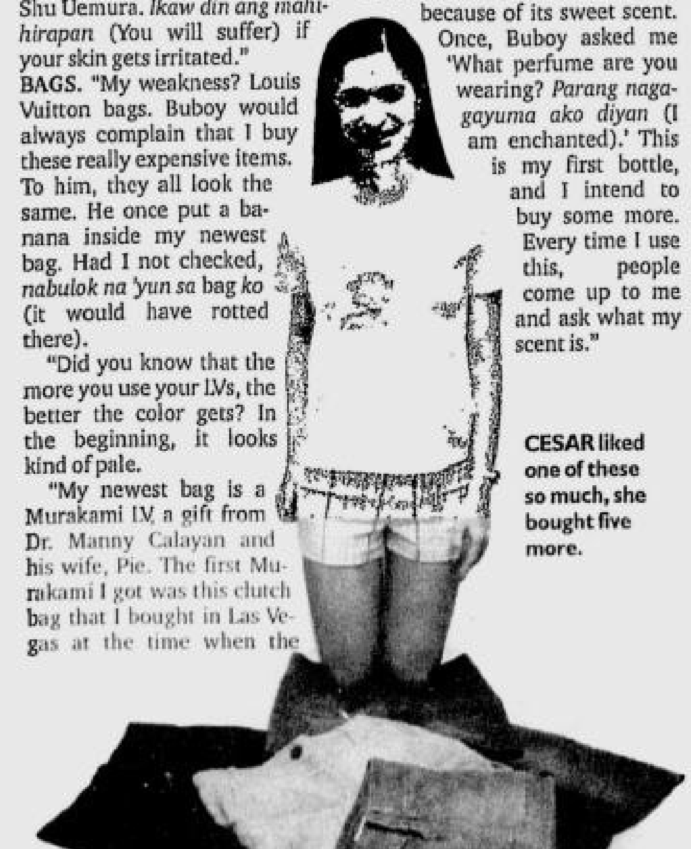
BAGS. "My weakness? Louis Vuitton bags. Buboy would always complain that I buy these really expensive items. To him, they all look the same. He once put a banana inside my newest bag. Had I not checked, *nabulok na 'yun sa bag ko* (it would have rotted there).

"Did you know that the more you use your LVs, the better the color gets? In the beginning, it looks kind of pale.

"My newest bag is a Murakami LV, a gift from Dr. Manny Calayan and his wife, Pie. The first Murakami I got was this clutch bag that I bought in Las Vegas at the time when the stock was still very limited. The bag had already been reserved for someone else. But the saleslady was Filipino, *binola-bola ni* Buboy *'yung* saleslady, and he got it.

"I don't want to encourage people to buy Louis Vuitton bags because they're really expensive. But if you want to buy a good leather bag, don't hesitate to get the pricey ones. What would you do with a cheap leather bag that would last you only a week?"

PERFUME. "I use Escada. I like it because of its sweet scent. Once, Buboy asked me 'What perfume are you wearing? *Parang nagagayuma ako diyan* (I am enchanted).' This is my first bottle, and I intend to buy some more. Every time I use this, people come up to me and ask what my scent is."



CESAR liked one of these so much, she bought five more.

Shed LIGHT to your DARK PROBLEMS!

Here comes the most convenient and effective answer to your dark underarms, nape, neck, groins, elbows, knees or other spots of the body...

the "Miracle Whitening Cream"

Be white...
Be desirable...
Believe it!

Get visual result in one week.

Ellen's
HOTLINE 3746665

10 Years
Enchanted Kingdom™
Feel the Magic!

Fun. Sun. Run to Enchanted Kingdom!

Summer Park Schedule

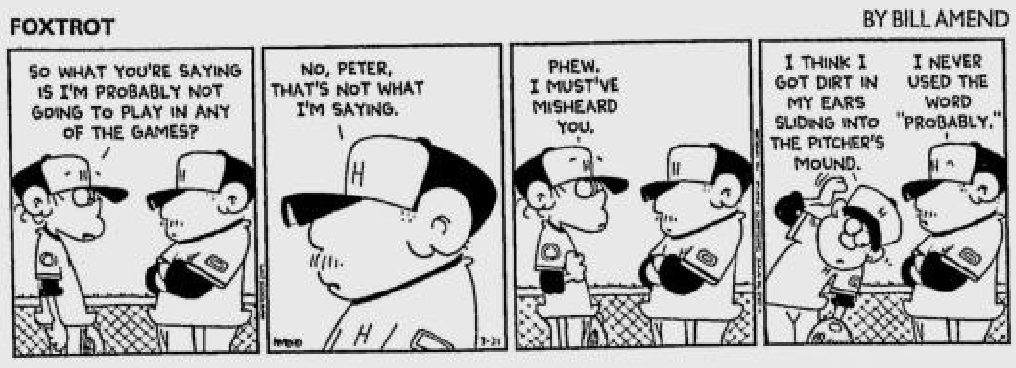
March 21 to June 5

Monday-Friday 2:00 PM-10:00 PM
Saturday-Sunday 10:00 AM-10:00 PM
Fireworks display every weekend at 9:00 PM

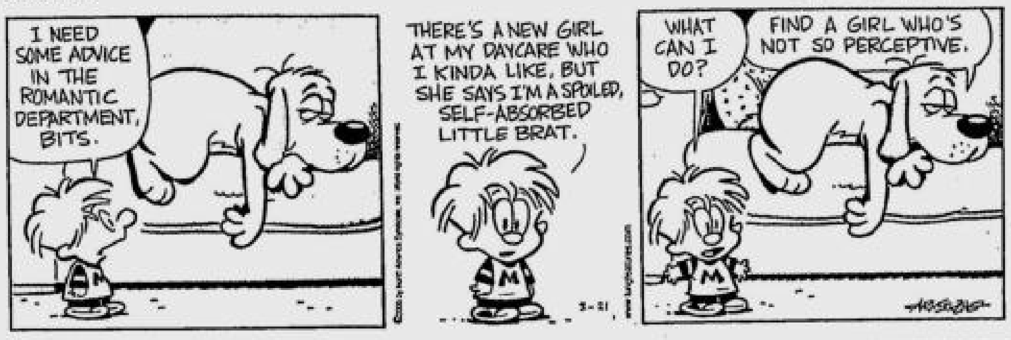
Park Closed
March 24 (Maundy Thursday)
March 25 (Good Friday)

For inquiries, please call 8302111 to 16 or 8436073 to 78 or visit www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph.

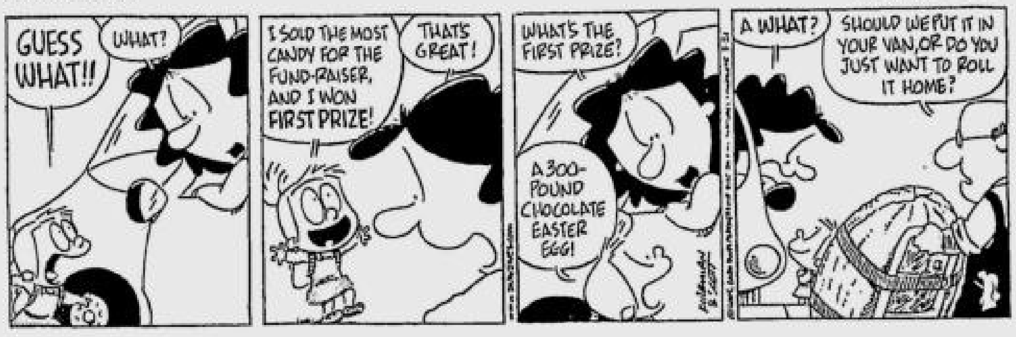
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS I'M PROBABLY NOT GOING TO PLAY IN ANY OF THE GAMES?
NO, PETER, THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING.
PHEW. I MUST'VE MISHEARD YOU.
I THINK I GOT DIRT IN MY EARS SLIDING INTO THE PITCHER'S MOUND.
I NEVER USED THE WORD "PROBABLY."

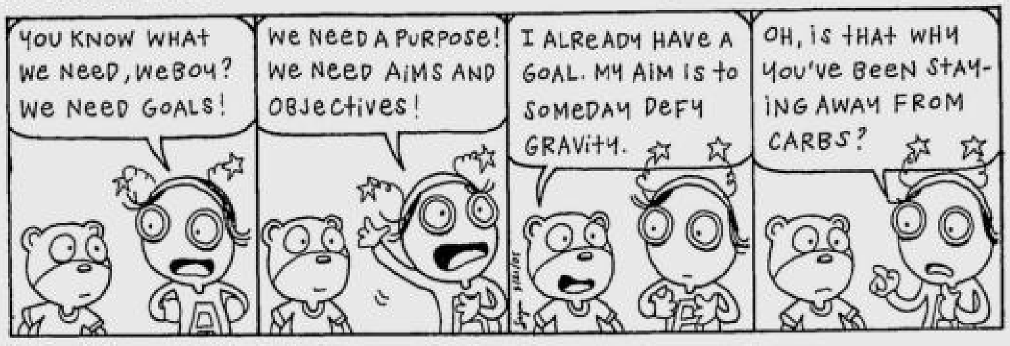
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I NEED SOME ADVICE IN THE ROMANTIC DEPARTMENT, BITS.
THERE'S A NEW GIRL AT MY DAYCARE WHO I KINDA LIKE, BUT SHE SAYS I'M A SPOILED, SELF-ABSORBED LITTLE BRAT.
WHAT CAN I DO?
FIND A GIRL WHO'S NOT SO PERCEPTIVE.

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


GUESS WHAT!!
WHAT?
I SOLD THE MOST CANDY FOR THE FUND-RAISER, AND I WON FIRST PRIZE!
THAT'S GREAT!
WHAT'S THE FIRST PRIZE?
A 300-POUND CHOCOLATE EASTER EGG!
A WHAT?
SHOULD WE PUT IT IN YOUR VAN, OR DO YOU JUST WANT TO ROLL IT HOME?

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU KNOW WHAT WE NEED, WEBOY? WE NEED GOALS!
WE NEED A PURPOSE! WE NEED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES!
I ALREADY HAVE A GOAL. MY AIM IS TO SOMEDAY DEFY GRAVITY.
OH, IS THAT WHY YOU'VE BEEN STAYING AWAY FROM CARBS?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are often careful and self-contained. Without even trying, you attract others to you. You like fun, and you have a keen perception of things. Your critical abilities are excellent. It's wise to monitor your finances. Use your own independence as a positive role model for others. An important choice awaits you this year. Choose wisely. Birthdate of: Charlotte Church, singer; Tyne Daly, actress; Alan Rickman, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a very passionate day. But it's passionate in a positive way. Discussions with friends and groups will be lively, dynamic and memorable!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a wonderful day to talk to your boss to see if you can get your way about anything. You're persuasive and charming. Who can resist you?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is an excellent day for business regarding publishing, the media, libraries, higher education, travel and dealing with foreign countries. You can get a lot done today!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today is the day to collect debts. Go after whatever anyone else owes you. You can make things materialize as if you were a magician pulling a rabbit out of a hat.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is the kind of day when friends can become lovers, and lovers can become friends. Relations with others are passionate. Good day to smooth over troubled waters.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're very powerful at work today. Whatever you do will improve things or make things run better. Co-workers are very supportive. (Would that every day were this easy.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Ooo la la! This is the day for romance and love. You feel passionate and desirable. You also feel very creative and artistic. Enjoy your day!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You can make wonderful creative improvements to where you live today. Buy things for your home; fix things that need repairing. Family relationships are excellent today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's as if you kissed the Blarney Stone today. You can talk anyone into anything! Sales, marketing, teaching, writing and all forms of communication are successful!

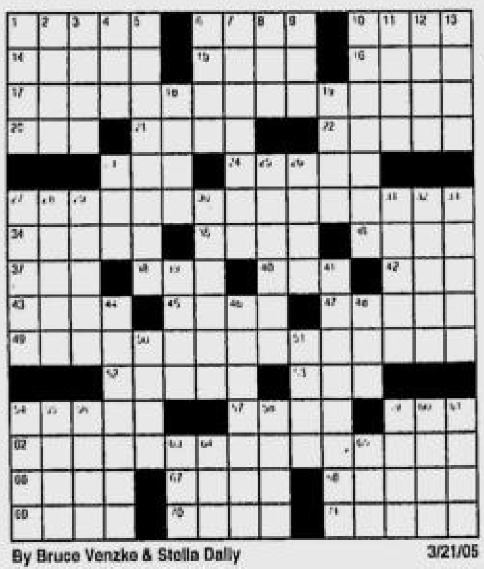
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is an excellent day for business and commerce. You can make great strides in making money or boosting your income.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a fabulous day to make any kind of improvement to your appearance or your wardrobe. Similarly, you can improve your closest relationships with others as well.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You are deeply intuitive. Today you are very much in touch with this inner world. You sense what goes on behind the scenes everywhere you look. In the same way, you can sense what others are thinking and feeling.

GASFAR
fuel saving tips
CHECK AND CLEAN SPARK PLUGS
Make it a habit to check on your spark plugs periodically. Clean plugs assure you of better combustion and less unburned gas.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Bruce Venzke & Stella Daily
Madison, WI
3/21/05

ACROSS
1 Impish rogue
6 McGregor of "Trainspotting"
10 Present packaging
14 Heavy work
15 Print measure
16 Aperture
17 Just a minute!
20 Drench
21 All even
22 Deep passion
23 Actor Kingsley
24 Former mayor of NYC
27 Breakfast order
34 Postman's course
35 Cable channel's letters
36 Bargain-hunter's dream
37 Comic Carney
38 Reggae relative
40 AOL, for example
42 Terrier foot
43 Way of old Rome
45 Part of USA
47 Merits
49 Hit by the Commodores
52 Hamlet
53 Spherical body
54 Type of pear
57 Bridge seat
59 I figured it out!
62 Convertible wannabe
66 Tenant's payment
67 Sufficient elbow space
68 "Guitar Town" singer Steve
69 Bullring shouts
70 Made great haste
71 Holy smokes!

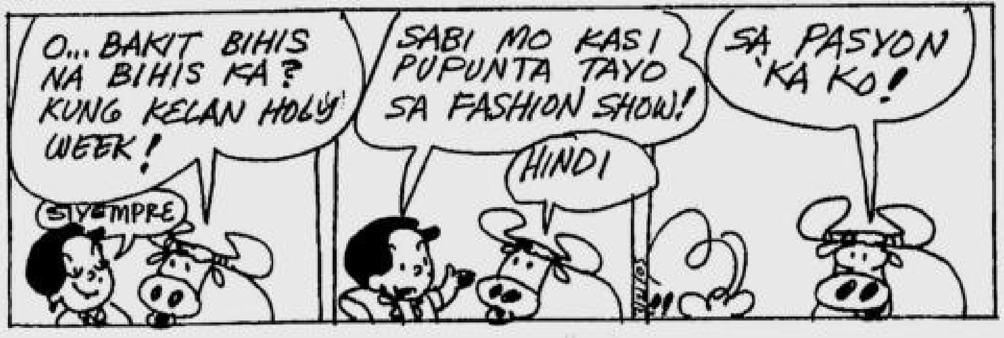
DOWN
1 Leisurely
2 Walking stick
3 Shelter a fugitive
4 Pop's partner
5 Apprentices
6 Fencing foil
7 Blowhard
8 Dissemblance
9 Snooze
10 While on the other hand
11 Highway
12 As well
13 Stare intently
18 Merciless villain
19 Young sheep
23 Wager
25 All in one place
26 Adj. modifiers
27 Attribute
28 Value
29 External
30 Former Israeli P.M.
31 "It's a Wonderful Life" director
32 Baltic island
33 Full of recent info
39 Green Hornet's valet
41 Partridge perch
44 Snappy comebacks
46 Major ruler
48 Priestly vestment
50 Barak of Israel
51 Sammy of baseball
54 Frizzy hairdo
55 Yuletide carol
56 Actress Allyson
58 Lamenter's words
59 Gillette razor
60 Cargo space
61 Simians
63 Table scrap
64 Tic-tac-toe win
65 Hammarskjold of the U.N.

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

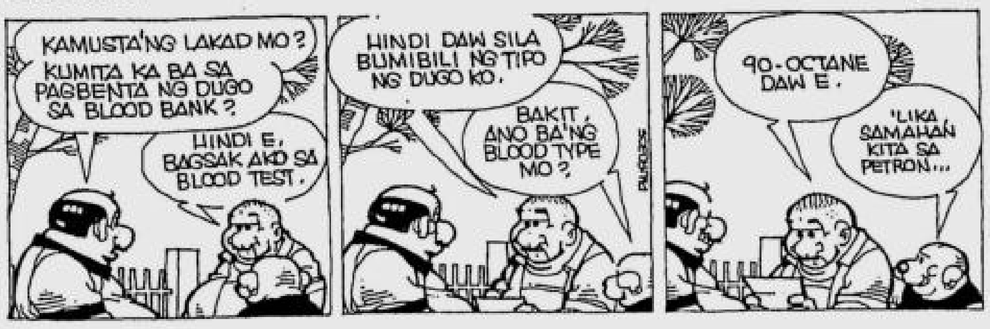
H	A	L	O	G	E	N	■	S	L	E	E	P	E	R
A	B	A	L	O	N	E	■	N	E	R	V	I	N	E
T	I	N	D	E	R	S	■	O	R	I	E	N	T	S
E	L	K	■	R	A	C	C	O	O	N	■	T	W	O
F	E	E	S	■	P	I	E	T	Y	■	B	A	I	L
U	N	S	H	A	P	E	L	Y	■	H	E	I	N	E
I	F	T	A	L	O	N	E	■	C	O	A	L	E	D
■	■	■	D	A	R	T	B	O	A	R	D	■	■	■
S	P	R	I	N	T	■	R	U	R	A	L	I	T	E
C	L	A	N	S	■	C	A	T	T	L	E	M	E	N
R	A	N	G	■	L	E	T	G	O	■	S	P	A	N
I	T	S	■	H	O	M	E	R	U	N	■	I	R	E
P	E	O	N	A	G	E	■	O	C	E	A	N	I	A
T	A	M	A	R	I	N	■	W	H	A	N	G	E	D
S	U	S	P	E	C	T	■	S	E	T	T	E	R	S

(C)2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved
3/21/05

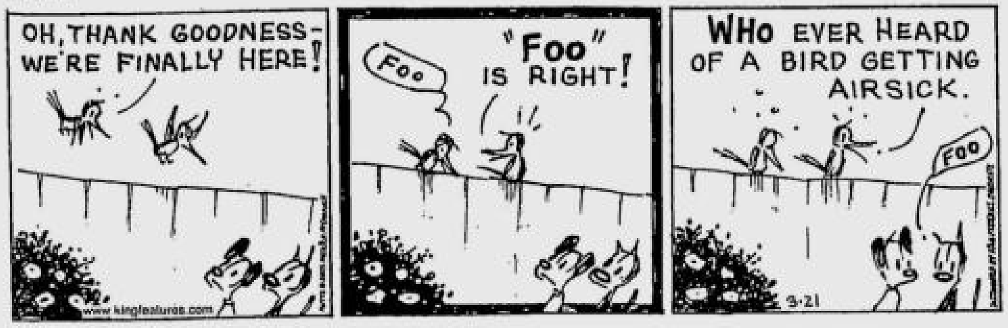
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


O... BAKIT BIHIS NA BIHIS KA? KUNG KELAN HOLY WEEK!
SIYEMPRE
SABI MO KASI PUPUNTA TAYO SA FASHION SHOW!
HINDI
SA PASYON 'KA KO!

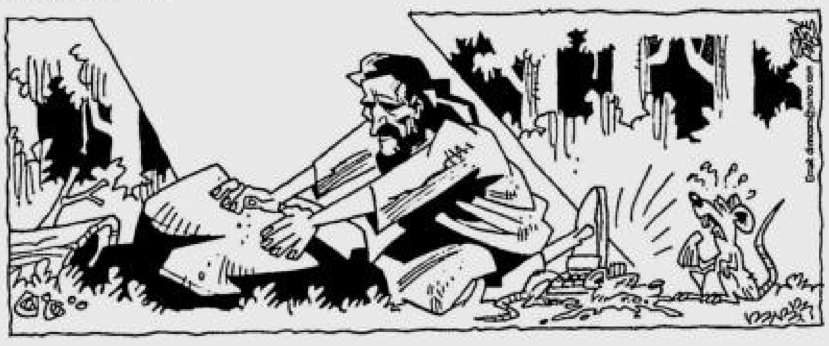
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAMUSTA'NG LAKAD MO? KUMITA KA BA SA PAGBENTA NG DUGO SA BLOOD BANK?
HINDI E. BAGSAK AKO SA BLOOD TEST.
HINDI DAW SILA BUMIBILI NG TIPO NG DUGO KO.
BAKIT, ANO BA'NG BLOOD TYPE MO?
90-OCTANE DAW E.
'LIKA SAMAHAN KITA SA PETRON...

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

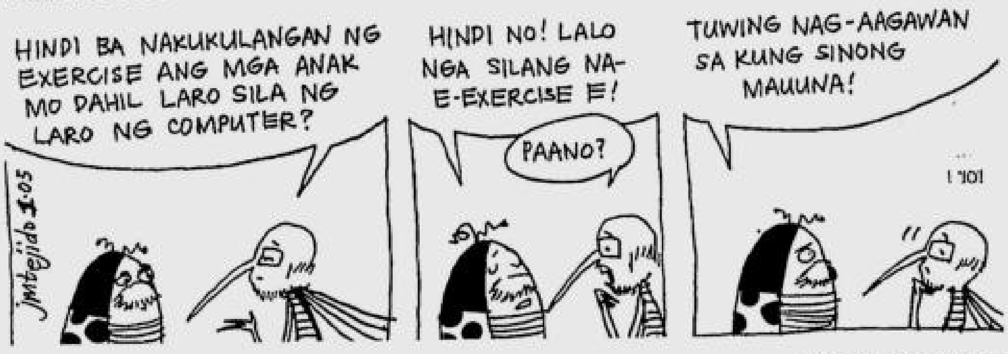

OH, THANK GOODNESS- WE'RE FINALLY HERE!
FOO
"FOO" IS RIGHT!
WHO EVER HEARD OF A BIRD GETTING AIRSICK.
FOO
www.kingfeatures.com

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

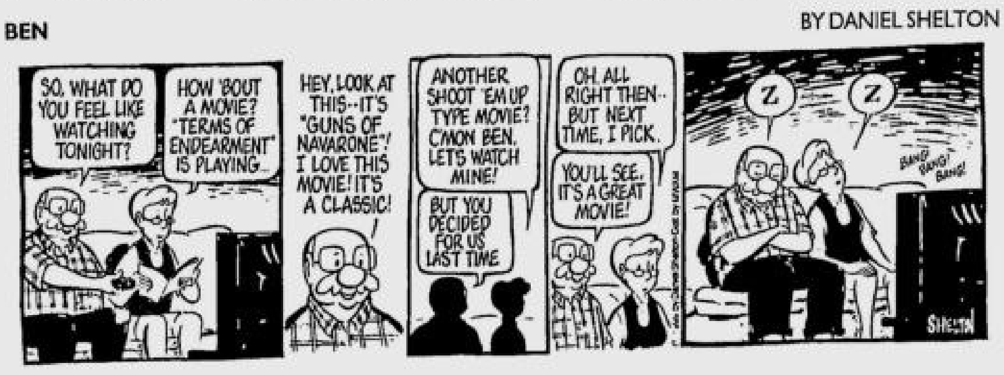


AGONY IN THE GARDEN

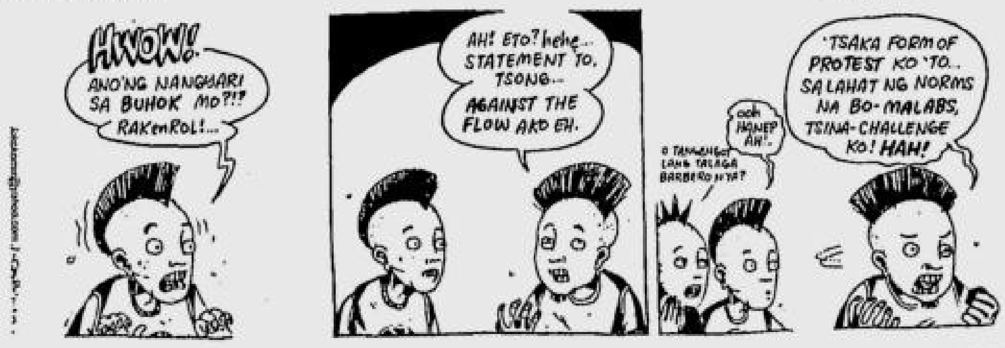
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HINDI BA NAKUKULANGAN NG EXERCISE ANG MGA ANAK MO DAHIL LARO SILA NG LARO NG COMPUTER?
HINDI NO! LALO NGA SILANG NA-E-EXERCISE E!
PAANO?
TUWING NAG-AAGAWAN SA KUNG SINONG MAUUNA!

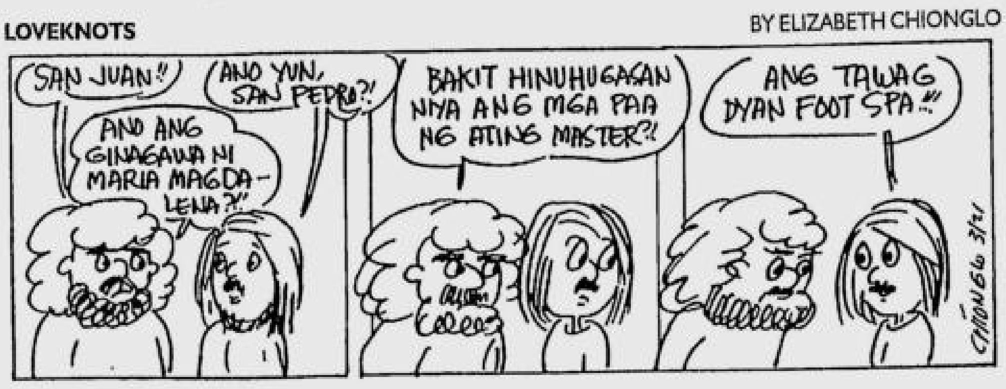
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO, WHAT DO YOU FEEL LIKE WATCHING TONIGHT?
HOW 'BOUT A MOVIE? "TERMS OF ENDEARMENT" IS PLAYING...
HEY, LOOK AT THIS--IT'S "GUNS OF NAVARONE"! I LOVE THIS MOVIE! IT'S A CLASSIC!
ANOTHER SHOOT 'EM UP TYPE MOVIE? C'MON BEN, LET'S WATCH MINE!
BUT YOU DECIDED FOR US LAST TIME
OH, ALL RIGHT THEN.. BUT NEXT TIME, I PICK.
YOU'LL SEE, IT'S A GREAT MOVIE!
Z
Z
BANG! BANG! BANG!

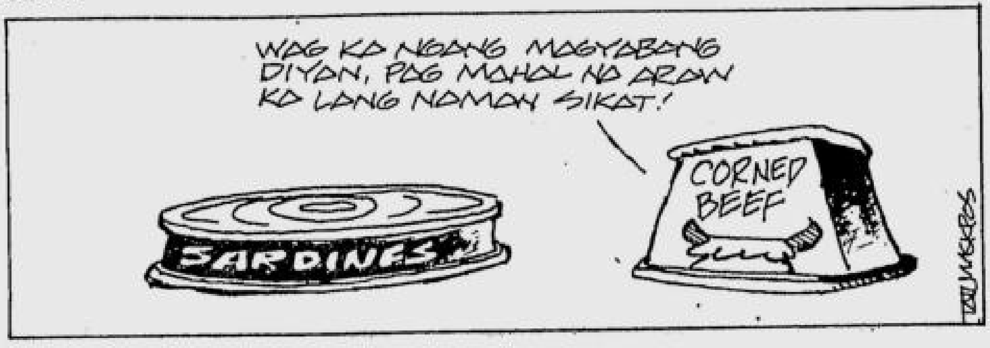
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOW!
ANO'NG NANGYARI SA BUHOK MO?!? RAKenROL!...
AH! ETO? hehe... STATEMENT TO, TSONG... AGAINST THE FLOW AKO EH.
'TSAKA FORM OF PROTEST KO 'TO.. SA LAHAT NG NORMS NA BO-MALABS, TSINA-CHALLENGE KO! HAH!
ooh HANEP AH!
O TAMANGGOT LANG TALAGA BARBERO NYA?

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SAN JUAN!!
ANO YUN, SAN PEDRO?!
ANO ANG GINAGAWA NI MARIA MAGDALENA?!
BAKIT HINUHUGASAN NIYA ANG MGA PAA NG ATING MASTER?!
ANG TAWAG DYAN FOOT SPA!!
CHIONGLO 3/21

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WAG KA NGANG MAGYABANG DIYAN, PAG MAHAL NA ARAW KA LANG NAMAN SIKAT!
CORNED BEEF
SARDINES

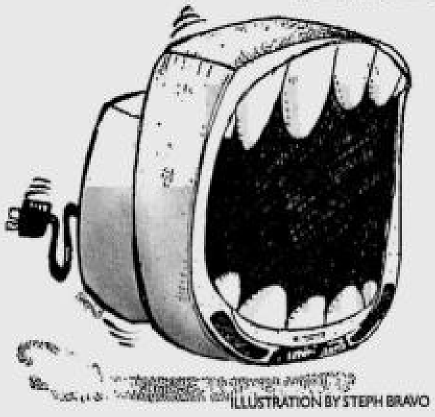


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

'Monsters' on TV

SELF-CENTERED, boorish and incompetent personalities on local television can relax: The title of today's column isn't referring to them. The monsters we're talking about are the really hideous human ogres featured recently on the tube by shows like "Oprah" and "Dateline."

Their repellent actuations are difficult to watch, but make for cautionary viewing that teaches us a lot about the extent that evil runs rampant in warped minds and psyches, and how we can avoid abusing and hurting people in our own lives.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

That's what these monstrous stories teach: we may never be as vile as these mega-abusers, but we should admit that the seeds of emotional and even physical violence lie dormant in the human psyche, so the potential for irrational and cruel behavior can be found in more people than we think, perhaps even in ourselves.

A recent chiller along these lines was a documentary about a man who periodically kidnapped teenage girls and kept them prisoners in a basement dungeon in his home, where he made them his sex slaves.

His neighbors never suspected that the seemingly nice, old man lived such a monstrous secret life. After his goose was finally cooked many years later, they professed to be shocked at the difference between his external sweetness and the vicious impulses raging within him.

His hapless victims knew it all along, however, and they have been traumatized for life. They were at his sexual beck and call for as long as three years, and they experienced first hand the cruel depths to which the warped human psyche can descend.

What made their "master" even more of a moral ogre was his lack of guilt about his beastly crimes. He "honestly" believed that it was okay for him to enslave his victims! And yet, he was deemed sane enough to stand trial. How do we account for much baffling moral conundrums?

Another ghostly feature was about a preacher who sexually abused his own daughter on the altar in his church. Huh?! What is the world coming to? Hannibal Lecter has nothing on these gruesome super-ogres!

Milder but more persuasive are the TV features on men who batter their wives, women who beat up their husbands, parents who subject their children to emotional, verbal and physical abuse, bosses who are cruel to their employees, and so-called civic and political leaders who turn out to be living contradictions of the lofty principles they so piously espouse.

We trust that these shocking case studies on TV will motivate viewers to discuss these and other instances of abnormal human psychology with their friends and loved ones.

The intent is not to terrify the populace, but to reduce the number of future victims, and to get professional psychological help for the "monsters" still in our midst.

'Angels in America' on video

Winner of five Golden Globe awards, "Angels in America" is based on Tony Kushner's celebrated play, which explores the sexual, racial, religious, political and social issues that cropped up when AIDS began decimating gay populations in major US cities. The acclaimed series starring Al Pacino and Meryl Streep is now available on quality DVD.

Directed by Mike Nichols, the production is more than just another tale about homosexuality. It's about love, family, secrets, death, and other universal themes that compel viewers' emphatic attention.

Meryl is superb in multiple roles—as a middle-aged Mormon mother, a male (!) rabbi, and the ghost of Ethel Rosenberg. Emma Thompson is the gentle, lovely, proud, pushy and bisexual angel. And Al Pacino plays the High Priest of villains, Roy Cohn, who gives other evil characters a run for their money.

Gantimpala workshops

Gantimpala Theater Foundation is holding musical theater and stage management workshops at the Rehearsal Hall of the concert at the Park Auditorium at Rizal Park, from April 4 to May 14. Final recital showcases will be staged on May 14.

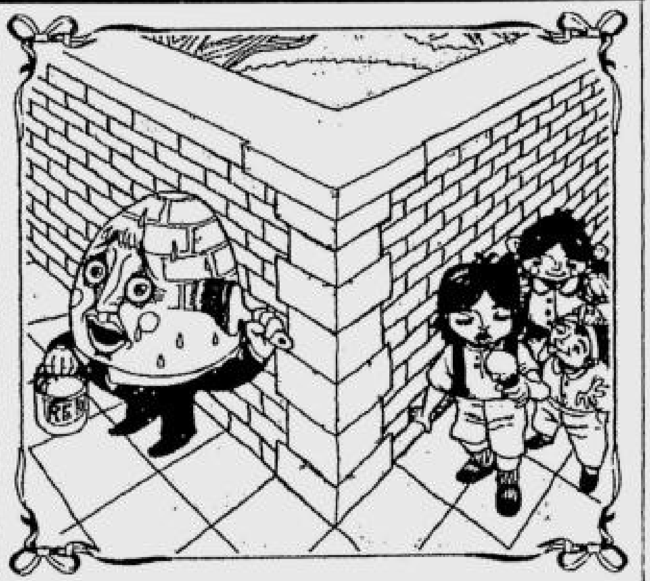
The workshops: Children's Musical Theater (M-W-F, 9 a.m. to 12 noon). Teen and Young Adults Musical Theater (M-W-F, 1 to 5 p.m.). Stage Management, starting April 18. Call 5365860.

'Anti-Idol'

For music buffs tired of singing "contest-pop" tunes with their cliché lyrics and vocal overkill, the "Anti-Idol" CD offers straight pop-rock numbers from 19 bands, including U2, Maroon 5, 3 Doors Down, Hoobastank, Limp Bizkit, Keane, Blink-182, Snow Patrol, Razorlight and the Hives.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

HOSTAGE **R13** 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15	**LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS** **GP** 12:50,3:10	**THE PACIFIER** **GP** 11:45,1:50,3:55, 6:00,8:05,10:10
HITCH **PG13** 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:20	**MILLION DOLLAR BABY** **PG13** 1:30,4:20,7:10,10:00	**ROBOTS** **GP** 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00



Egg hunt this March 27.
Registration from the 16th to the 26th

Highlights :
Free bunnies, carnival, variety shows and activity booths

POWER PLANT MALL

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▸PG-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

FROM THE ACTION CHOREOGRAPHER OF "THE MATRIX"
AND THE SPECIAL EFFECTS DIRECTOR OF "SHAOLIN SOCCER"

GORDON LIU
Star of
KILL BILL
SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
Voted Best Movie Theater
-Philippine Daily Inquirer's 2004 Yearend Reader Survey
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	**PACIFIER** SNEAK PREVIEW 10:50, 1:25, 3:50 6:15, 8:40, 11:00 GP
2	**MS. CONGENIALITY** 12:10, 2:55, 5:40 8:25, 11:00 GP
3	**ROBOTS** 10:50, 1:10, 3:35 6:00, 8:25, 10:50 GP
4	**HOSTAGE** 12:30, 3:10, 5:50 8:30, 11:05 R-13

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
HOSTAGE - R13
10:45, 1:15, 3:45
Sneak Preview
PACIFIER - GP - 7:25 & 10PM

CINEMA 2
ROBOTS
10:55, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10
GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

APRIL 9, 2005	TROY MONTERO	8:30PM
APRIL 28 2005	"LOVE IN APRIL" - PILITA CORRALES	7:30PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL · 721-6726 OR 721-0635

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE
MOVIEWORLD
CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 HITCH • THX 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	**6 HOSTAGE** 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 ROBOTS 10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00	**7 CURSED** 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
3 CONFIDENCE 10:50 1:05 3:20 5:35 7:40 10:00	**8 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD** 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00	**9 MILLION DOLLAR BABY** 11:00 1:50 4:40 7:30 10:00
5 BAHAY NI LOLA 2 10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00	**10 CONSTANTINE** 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 ROBOTS	11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2 11:10 1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:40	**5 CONFIDENCE** 10:30 12:25 2:20 4:15 6:10 8:05 10:00
3 HOSTAGE 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	**6 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD** 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
4 CURSED 10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45	**7 HITCH** 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST 11:30 1:55 4:20 6:40 9:00	**5 ROBOTS** 10:50 1:10 3:30 5:50 8:10 10:30
2 CONSTANTINE 11:30 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00	**6 HOSTAGE** 11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30
3 CURSED 11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10	**7 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD** 10:25 12:50 3:15 5:40 8:05 10:30
4 HITCH 11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00	**8 BAHAY NI LOLA 2** 10:50 1:10 3:30 5:50 8:10 10:30

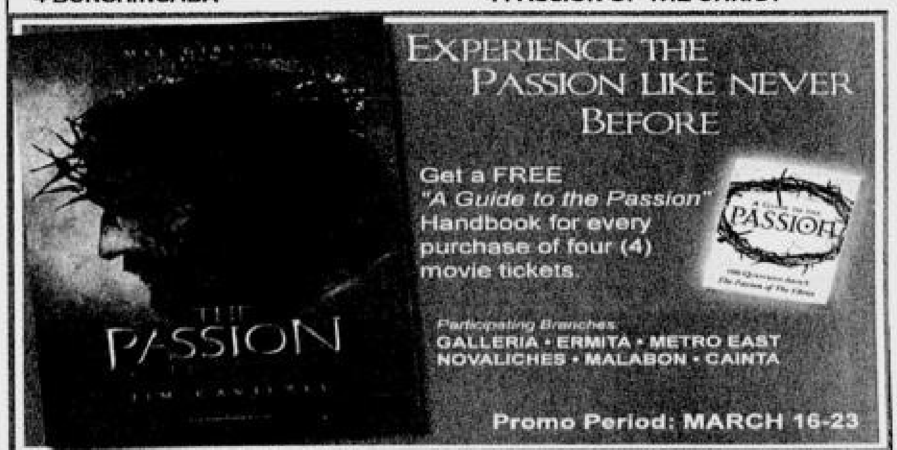
NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 ROBOTS 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25	**5 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD** 11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25
2 HOSTAGE 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25	**6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:50
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	**7 MILLION DOLLAR BABY** 12:30 3:10 5:50 8:30
4 CURSED 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25	**8 RESERVE**

PIONEER 687-5378

1 ROBOTS	3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
2 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD	4 HOSTAGE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575	**CAINTA** 240-4661
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13	1 ROBOTS
2 PASSION OF THE CHRIST	2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2	3 HOSTAGE
4 BUNSHINSABA	4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST



EXPERIENCE THE PASSION LIKE NEVER BEFORE
Get a FREE "A Guide to the Passion" Handbook for every purchase of four (4) movie tickets.
Participating Branches
GALLERIA • ERMITA • METRO EAST
NOVALICHES • MALABON • CAINTA
Promo Period: MARCH 16-23

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907	**LIPA** (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870
1 SON OF THE MASK 2	1 HITCH
2 THE FINAL CUT	2 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST	3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2	4 THE FINAL CUT
5 ROBOTS	5 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

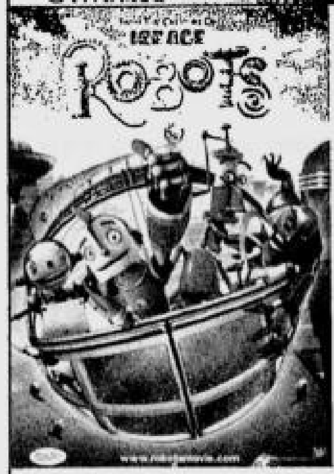
DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332	**ANGELES** (045) 892-2348
1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST	1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 IN SEARCH OF AN IMPOTENT MAN	2 SON OF THE MASK 2
3 CURSED	3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2	4 ROBOTS
5 ROBOTS	

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188	**STARMILLS** (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
1 ROBOTS	1 ROBOTS
2 THE FINAL CUT	2 BUKID AY BASA 2
3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY	3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 HOSTAGE	4 RAY
5 BAHAY NI LOLA 2	5 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST	6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459	**ILOILO** (033) 336-8070
1 HITCH	1 ROBOTS
2 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS	2 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST	3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	4 SON OF THE MASK 2
5 ROBOTS	5 BIRHEN NG MANAOG
6 BIRHEN NG MANAOG	6 BUNSHINSABA

The Perfect Gift All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

SM CINEMA movietime™



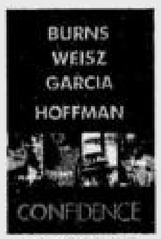
FROM THE CREATORS OF ICE AGE

ROBOTS

THE BIGGEST COMEDY EVER ASSEMBLED
NOW SHOWING
AT SM CINEMAS!

NOW SHOWING

BAHAY NI LOLA 2
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING



CONFIDENCE
MTRCB Rating: PG 13

ROBOTS
MTRCB Rating: GP

SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

FOR INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING, SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

☎ CALLUS@ 833-9999

VISITUS@ www.smcinema.co

GUARANTEED SEATS

the podium cinema

1. ROBOTS
11:50 FS / 12:20 MF / 2:25 / 4:30 / 6:35
8:40 / 10:15 LFS / 10:45 LMF / 12:20 END

2. CONFIDENCE
11:50 FS / 12:20 MF / 2:25 / 4:30 / 6:35
8:40 / 10:15 LFS / 10:45 LMF / 12:20 END

☎ 633-6976

sm megamall cinema 1

little BLACK BOOK
12:05 FS / 12:35 MF / 2:50 / 5:05 / 7:20
9:05 LFS / 9:40 LMF / 12:25 END

☎ 633-1901

sm cebu cinema 1

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
11:30 MF / 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00
9:02 LFS / 9:30 LMP / 11:50 END

☎ (032) 231-3876

METRO MANILA

sm megamall

1 LITTLE BLACK BOOK smcinemaexclusive
2 HOSTAGE
3 THE PACIFIER
4 ROBOTS
5 HITCH
6 CONFIDENCE
7 CURSED
8 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
9 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
10 RESERVED
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

sm city sta. mesa

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
5 THE PACIFIER
6 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
7 ROBOTS
8 HOSTAGE
9 CURSED
10 HITCH

sm cinema tutuban

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm city fairview

1 SANTA SANTITA
2 FINAL CUT
3 SON OF THE MASK
4 HOSTAGE
5 HITCH
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
7 THE PACIFIER
8 ROBOTS
9 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
10 CONSTANTINE
11 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
12 CURSED

sm city southmall

1 HOSTAGE
2 CURSED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 HITCH
6 GOSPEL OF JOHN
7 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
8 THE PACIFIER
9 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
10 ROBOTS

sm supercenter sucat

1 ROBOTS
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 HOSTAGE
4 THE PACIFIER

sm city north edsa

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 CURSED
5 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
6 HOSTAGE
7 ROBOTS
8 THE PACIFIER

sm city manila

1 THE PACIFIER
2 HOSTAGE
3 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE smcinemaexclusive
4 ROBOTS
5 HITCH
6 CONFIDENCE
7 GOSPEL OF JOHN
8 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
9 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
10 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
11 CURSED
12 CONSTANTINE

sm city bicutan

1 THE PACIFIER
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 ROBOTS
4 HOSTAGE

LUZON

sm city pampanga

1 SON OF THE MASK
2 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
3 THE FINAL CUT
4 HITCH
5 ROBOTS
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2

sm city marilao

1 CONSTANTINE
2 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 SON OF THE MASK

sm city baguio

1 CONSTANTINE
2 GOSPEL OF JOHN
3 RACING STRIPES
4 HITCH

sm city bacoor

1 FINAL CUT
2 THE PACIFIER
3 ROBOTS
4 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
5 HOSTAGE
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
7 CURSED
8 GOSPEL OF JOHN

sm city batangas

1 SON OF THE MASK
2 CONSTANTINE
3 HITCH
4 MAD HOUSE

sm city dasmariñas

1 ROBOTS
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 CURSED
4 THE PACIFIER

sm city lucena

1 SON OF THE MASK
2 BAHAY NI LOLA
3 INFECTION
4 CONSTANTINE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu

1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 ROBOTS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
6 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
7 HOSTAGE
8 HITCH

sm city iloilo

1 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
2 RESERVED
3 SON OF THE MASK
4 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
5 THE AVIATOR
6 ROBOTS
7 RESERVED
8 GOSPEL OF JOHN

sm city davao

1 ROBOTS
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
3 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
4 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
5 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
6 HITCH

sm city cagayan de oro

1 THE AVIATOR
2 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
3 INFECTION
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

sm previews

Sandra Bullock
miss Congeniality 2
Armed and Fabulous

MARCH 22 & 23

vin DIESEL
the PACIFIER
WELCOME TO THE INFANTRY.

MARCH 21 & 22

WATCH IT AT ALL SM METRO MANILA BRANCHES

AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA · ALABANG TOWN CENTER · AYALA CENTER CEBU · Love mall!

COLLECT THEM ALL!
TIMEZONE
celebrates
DISNEY
POWERCARD
Mickey
Minnie
Goofy
Donald
Daisy
Pluto

LIMITED RELEASE (March 2005 only)
COLLECTIBLE, NON-RELOADABLE

These collectible Powercards are available for P250. This shall be inclusive of P200 worth of game load plus 5 free games. These designs are available only for the month of March.

TIMEZONE

Timezone branches are located at:
Glorietta 4 729-3852/53
Glorietta 2 [illegible]
Greenbelt 3 757-3878
Greenbelt 1 752-4549
Alabang Town Center-Main 850-0574
Alabang Town Center-Cinema [illegible]
Starmall 718-3409
SM Megamall [illegible]
Greenhills 722-2156
Mainpoint [illegible]
Market! Market! 886-7360
Cebu [illegible]
Robinsons Lipa (043)757-3012
Pavilion Mall [illegible]
NCCC Mall, Davao (082)299-4799

AYALA GREENBELT

Catch Sybil Live! as she sings her hit songs
Make it Easy, Don't Make me Over
April 7,2005

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
A Magical Easter (A whole day Easter celebration) March 27, 2005	Summer Boat Show March 18-22, 2005	Gopher Wood Learning Center March 21, 2005

Onstage

REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents
The Little Shop of Horrors
at REP's GLOBE THEATER
for the Month of March

Ayala MUSEUM

Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue. For inquiries, please call 757-7117.

AYALA CINEMAS

THX

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

		Cinema	Movie	Schedule
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1	ROBOTS	
		2	THE PACIFIER	
		THX	HOSTAGE	12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
		4	CONFIDENCE	
		5	SPANGLISH	
		6	CURSED	
		7	HITCH	
G1	GLORIETTA 1	1	ROBOTS	
		2	SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD	
		3	THE PACIFIER	
		4	BAHAY NI LOLA 2	
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX 1	ROBOTS	
		2	HOSTAGE	
		3	HITCH	
		4	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	
		5	MILLION DOLLAR BABY	
ACC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1	HITCH	
		2	ROBOTS	
		3	THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	
		4	HOSTAGE	
		5		
GB1	GRENBELT 1	1	ROBOTS	11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
		2	SPANGLISH	11:20, 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40
GB3	GRENBELT 1	THX 1	THE PACIFIER	1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
		THX 2	ROBOTS	12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
		3	CONFIDENCE	1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
		4	HITCH	1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
		5	SPANGLISH	1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS

From the Creators of ICE AGE
ROBOTS
www.robotsmovie.com

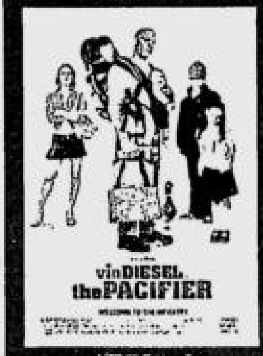
NOW SHOWING AT AYALA CINEMAS

For screening schedules, call 729-7777

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservation

MTRCB Rating: General Audiences

SNEAK PREVIEWS AT AYALA CINEMAS



MTRCB Rating: G
MARCH 21, 22 & 23

Sandra Bullock
miss Congeniality 2
Armed and Fabulous

MTRCB Rating: PG-13
MARCH 22 & 23

For screening schedule, call 729-7777.

All-Digital Cinemas

MARKET! MARKET!
The fun is in the finds
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7515

Free Seating Cinemas: P70.00

① Constantine
② Cursed
③ Shaolin vs. Evil Dead
④ Bahay ni Lola 2

Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00

⑤ Hitch
⑥ Hostage
⑦ Robots

EVENTS! EVENTS!

Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs

EXPO 2005 AT MARKET! MARKET!
March 19-22, 2005 (Saturday-Tuesday)
11:00am-9:00pm Activity Center, Market! Market!
A special trade/exhibit fair for the empowerment of OFW and SME families, with guest speakers like Hon. Rollo S. Golez and Hon. Freddie Tinga of Taguig

Customer Service text hotline. 0917 6095900
Customer Service text hotline: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn

Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS GB4 to 2333(Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

ADVANCE SCREENING
Vin Diese's latest starrer, "The Pacifier," will have advance screenings today and tomorrow in metro theaters. A recent No. 1 hit in the United States, "The Pacifier" is a Walt Disney Pictures production. Diesel stars as Navy Seal Shane Wolfe who is convinced he could take on any job ... until he tries babysitting. Regular showing is set March 30.

Leave light sabers

DIRECTOR George Lucas had a message for fans as he previewed a glimpse of the final tale in the billion dollar "Star Wars" film franchise: leave the light sabers at home, but don't forget the tissues.

"It's not like the first one. It's more emotional," said the director of "Star Wars: Episode III—Revenge of the Sith," which arrives in theaters May 19.

Tearjerker

"I describe it as a 'Titanic' in space. It's a real tearjerker, and it will be received in a way that none of us can expect," he told theater owners at the ShoWest convention.

ShoWest is a major gathering of movie theater owners in the United States. and a launch pad for Hollywood's summer movies.

Film studio Twentieth Century Fox teased a packed house here with the first six minutes of "Revenge." of the Sith," the first time scenes had been shown to audiences.

Jedi Knight Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) and master Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) wage a furious fight against their adversaries in a battle of deadly spaceships. In this episode, Skywalker becomes the notorious Darth Vader.

Love's wonders

Lucas and the promotional clip did not divulge much about the "tearjerker" love story.

If Lucas's comparison to "Titanic" is to be believed, there must be heartbreak in "Revenge of the Sith" because 1997's tale of the doomed ocean liner, "Titanic," stirred audiences with its tale of an ill-fated affair.

Love can work wonders with movie audiences. "Titanic" is the highest grossing movie of all time with more than $1.8 billion in worldwide ticket sales.

The "Star Wars" films are no losers, either, but there hasn't been much romance in them—not yet, anyway. *Reuters*

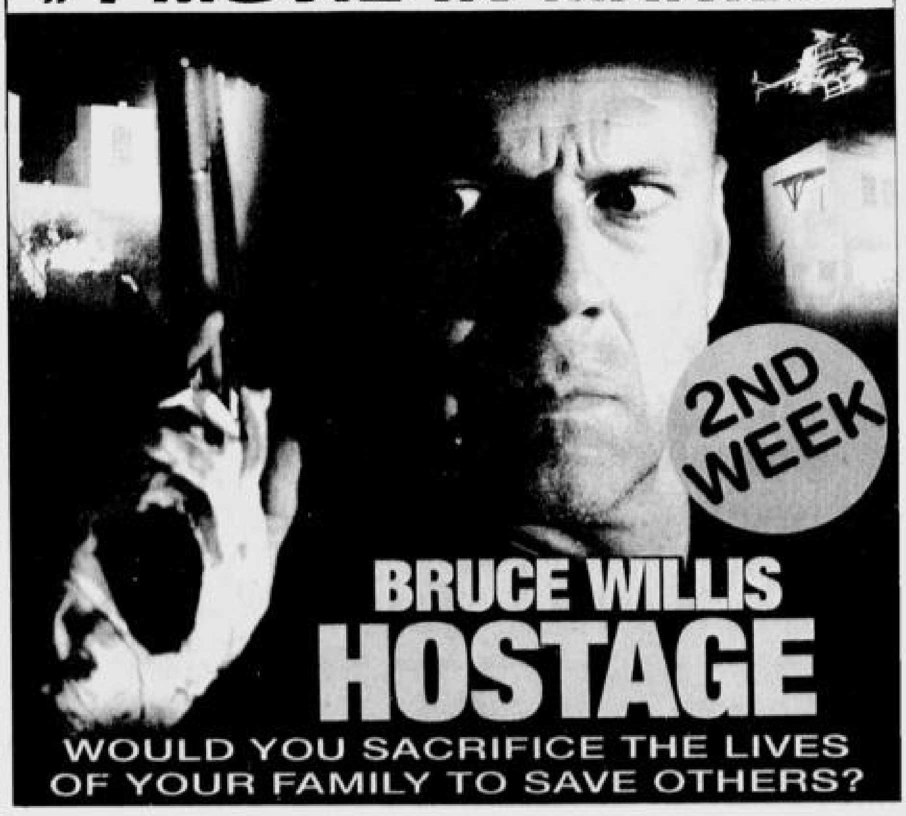
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
NOW SHOWING
HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE YOU'RE NOT HUMAN ANYMORE?

The Evolution of the Specie
CHRISTINA RICCI
JOSHUA JACKSON
SHANNON ELIZABETH
JESSE EISENBERG
A WES CRAVEN FILM
CURSED
WES CRAVEN
KEVIN WILLIAMSON
MIRAMAX

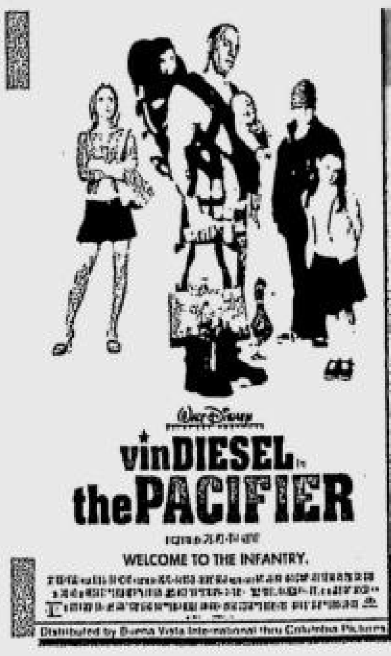
OPENS MARCH 26
SNEAK PREVIEWS TOMORROW!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

Sandra Bullock
Arm yourself with the original
Buy Miss CONGENIALITY
THE DELUXE EDITION on DVD
miss Congeniality 2
Armed and Fabulous
www.armedandfabulous.com
Soundtrack Album on Warner Sunset Records

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
AS HOT AS TODAY'S LOCAL HEADLINES,
100% TRUE-TO-LIFE HOSTAGE CRISIS
#1 MOVIE IN MANILA



2ND WEEK
BRUCE WILLIS
HOSTAGE
WOULD YOU SACRIFICE THE LIVES OF YOUR FAMILY TO SAVE OTHERS?



Walt Disney
vinDIESEL
thePACIFIER
WELCOME TO THE INFANTRY.
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

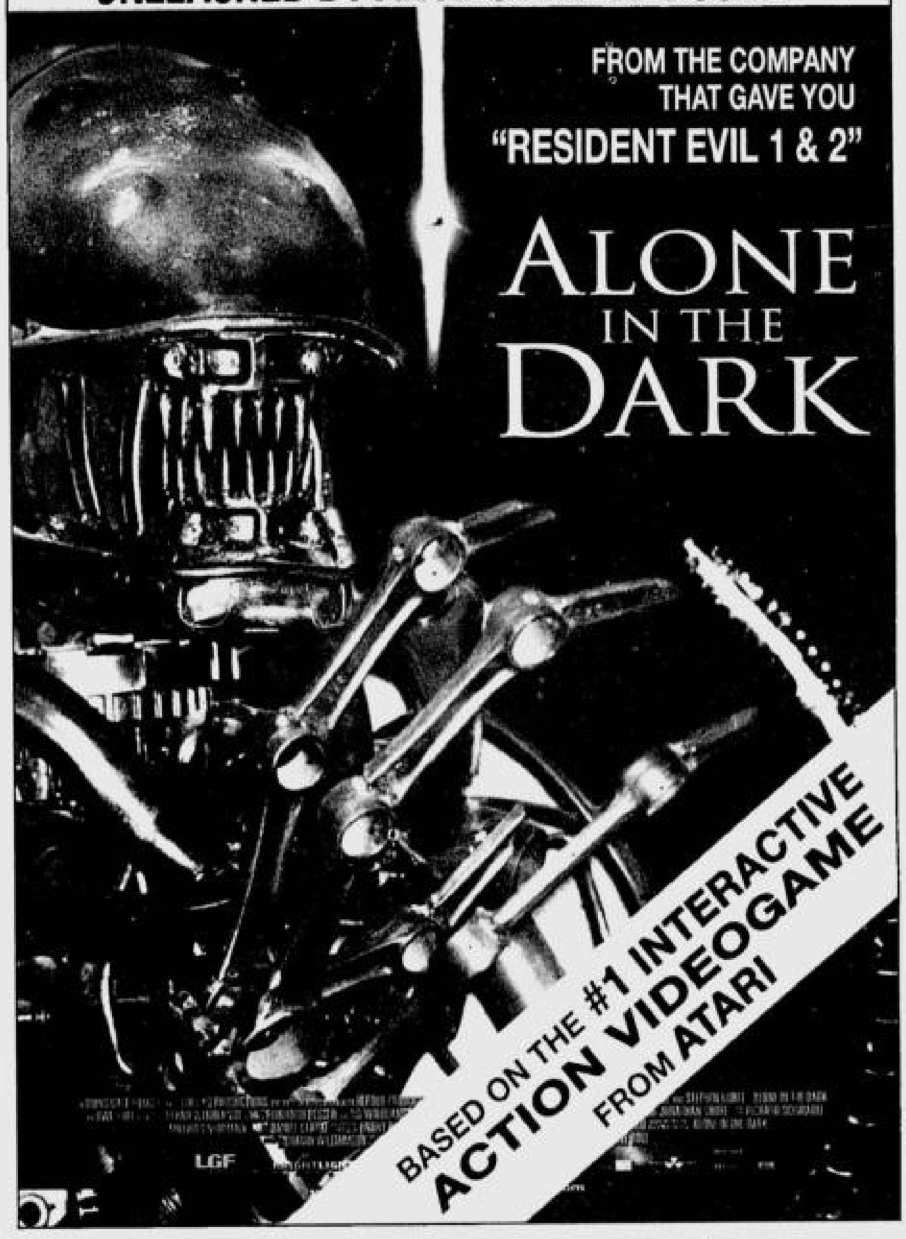
sneak
PREVIEW
at
Robinsons Movieworld

March 21 and 22
MTRCB Rating: G

Galleria • Ermita • Metro East • Pioneer
Novaliches • Cainta • Imus • Dasmariñas

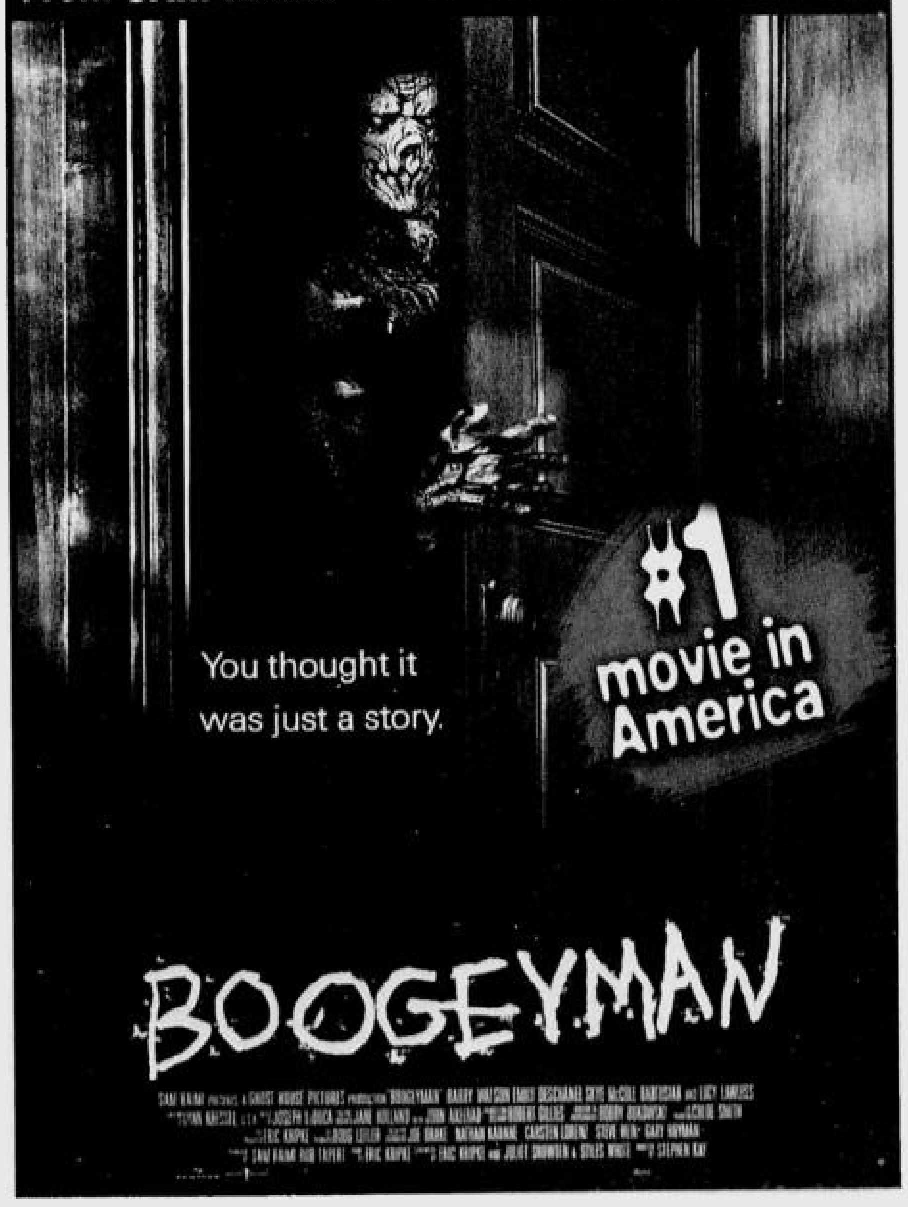
showing on MARCH 30
For SCREENING SCHEDULES, pls. call our CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555 or visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
NOW SHOWING
CAN MANKIND DEFEAT THE ARMY OF DARKNESS UNLEASHED BY AN ANCIENT EVIL CULT?



FROM THE COMPANY THAT GAVE YOU "RESIDENT EVIL 1 & 2"
ALONE IN THE DARK
BASED ON THE #1 INTERACTIVE ACTION VIDEOGAME FROM ATARI
LGF

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
COMING SOON
MTRCB Rating ▶ PG 13 "Parents are strongly cautioned in bringing along kids below seven due to some scenes that might stress their sensitivities".
From SAM RAIMI - the director of SPIDERMAN



You thought it was just a story.
#1 movie in America
BOOGEYMAN

Not much of a beauty tilt

It's time Sandra Bullock moved on to new franchises

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

SANDRA Bullock reprises her old role, Gracie Hart, in "Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous." The character was an ugly duckling of an FBI agent who infiltrated a national beauty pageant to uncover a sinister plot in 2000's "Miss Congeniality."

In the first installment, Gracie was the reluctant pseudo-contestant tasked to protect beauty queens from a disgruntled competition organizer (Candice Bergen). To blend in convincingly, Gracie was mentored by a style and manners guru (Michael Caine). After the makeover, she won the hearts of her co-competitors, the public, and a fellow FBI agent (Benjamin Bratt).

"Miss Congeniality 2" has a Gracie who is now an easily recognizable celebrity, thanks to her televised heroism, which made her an overnight sensation. Of course this is a big disadvantage in any undercover mission. But the boss, Agent McDonald (Ernie Hudson) reassigns the distinguished and beloved Gracie to where her fame can be put to good use—as spokesperson for the FBI.

Hitches

The job isn't without hitches, though. Her new partnter, an angry woman by the name of Sam Fuller (Regina King) grudgingly tours with her, appearing on TV talk shows as her assistant. To put it simply, Sam isn't impressed at all with Gracie—and vice versa. And they're both up-front about it. Gracie has indeed changed, fully embracing her mascot persona following a recent break-up. The fame that's gotten into her head irks Sam to no end.

A kidnapping incident makes Gracie revert to form: Her friend, Miss USA winner Cheryl Frazier (Heather Burns) and TV host Stan Fields (William Shatner) have been abducted in Las Vegas. Their only hope lies in Gracie and the FBI, and (surprise!) her fluctuating partnership with Sam.

"Miss Congeniality 2" is directed by John Pasquin ("The Santa Clause"), from a screenplay by frequent Bullock collaborator Marc Lawrence ("Two Weeks Notice," "Miss Congeniality").

Bullock has always been charismatic, onscreen and off. Not to be needlessly harsh, but the well has run dry. The first movie was an overly lengthy and formulaic sitcom made bearable only by the actress' uncanny talent of making fun of herself and the cartoony presence of Caine and Bergen.

Metamorphosis

The chortling "Dirty Harriet" character experiences a metamorphosis in the sequel. She has actually become what she hated the most in the previous movie: A shallow, ditzy bitch. Sam is a foil to her, pretty much resembling her pre-stardom ghoulishness. This premise, though, is given too much of a stretch.

Taking over Caine's makeover maven role is Diedrich Bader ("Drew Carey Show"), who plays the smart but unfunny personal stylist Joel. Somewhat filling the requisite "hunk" void left by Bratt is Enrique Murciano, as rookie FBI agent Jeff.

And there are strange by-the-numbers cameos by Regis Philbin and Dolly Parton as themselves.

"Miss Congeniality 2" feels really looong. The scenarios drag until the semblance of a punchline appears and gets re-used later in the movie. It's not exactly a gut-busting beauty pageant or a comedy; this becomes evident just a few minutes into the movie.

Move on to new franchises, Miss Bullock, you and your countless fans deserve better.

SNEAK previews of "Miss Congeniality 2" are set tomorrow and Wednesday in select theaters. Regular run starts March 26.

All-Digital Cinemas

MARKET! MARKET!
Cinemas! Cinemas!
The fun is in the finds
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.

Movie tickets for sale at the Ground Floor Fiesta Market and Customer Service Booth

Free Seating Cinemas: P70.00
① The Passion of the Christ
② Cursed
③ Shaolin vs. Evil Dead
④ Bahay ni Lola 2

Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00
⑤ Hitch
⑥ Hostage
⑦ Robots

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7516

SINO ANG BABANGGA SA GINEBRA?
PBA
ABC Iba tayo
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE
ASTIG!

ClickTheCity.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Monday March 21 2005

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4.25 PM)	Gatekeepers (5.10 PM)	Gundam Seed (5.35 PM)	The Road To Stardom	TV Patrol		Spirits	Krystala	Hiram	Save The Last Dance	'Til Death Do Us Part	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
NBN	Value Vision				Teledyaryo	Value Vision	Next Stop			Network Forum		Teledyaryo		The Working President	Concert at the Park			Dial M	
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	Art Is-Kool	Anime Ring Kasho		Anime Ring Kasho		Sentro	Friends	The Apprentice				Big News	Pops!		Extreme Island	Billboard On-Air
GMA 7		Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Joyride	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Knock Out	Tryker Hungry Heart	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin		Full House	Stairway To Heaven	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberrys	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	Wrestling							Newswatch Now	Sex & the City		
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Home Shopping Network		Mosconi Cup					IBC News Tonite	Linawin Natin	
Solar		Wow		Slamball		Rostal	Zeta Project	Mucha Lucha!	Spiderman	Stargate SG1		Witchblade		Blood Surf					
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Nick Mix						Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	OPM MYX Countdown		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC	Change of Heart	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Starting Over		Complete Savages	Knock First	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Friends	Will & Grace	The O.C.		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight Weekend		Sex & the City	
Cinema One		Una Kang Naging Akin				Ingkong Alpha At Omega				Kung Aagawin Mo Ang Lahat Sa Akin				Hanggang Saan Hanggang Kailan				Pangako Ikaw Lang	
Studio 23		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	Ragnarok	Project Arms	Wazzup Wazzup	Fightbox	Jake 2.0		Charmed		News Central	The West Wing		Travel Time
AXN		Lost		The Contender		Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	Rated X	Samurai X	Samurai X	Andromeda (Season III)		Fear Factor		The Outer Limits		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami	
Star World	Weird TV	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	The King Of Queens	Everybody Loves Raymond	Grounded For Life	Frasier	The Casino		Friends	The King Of Queens
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Built For The Kill		Totally Wild	Wildlife Diary	Be The Creature		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles Dr. Brady Barr	Wow		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Built For The Kill		Totally Wild	Wildlife Diary
Solar Sports		In This Corner		IBF China Super Grand Prix WS		NBA Jam L017	GWS Ep.10-2005	Boxing - Pacquiao vs. Morales						Sagupaan		NBA Game Seattle @ L.A. Lakers			
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911									
HBO				Stinger (4.10 PM)				Fancy Dancing (5.55 PM)			National Security			The Quick And The Dead			Hysterical Blindness		
Star Movies			The Ticket	Alex & Emma			Mixed Nuts (5.45 PM)				Blind Horizon (7.20 PM)			Aliens				Agent Red (aka Captured)	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Shaman King	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Mr. T	Josie And The Pussycats	The Superfriends	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN		2005 Big East C'ship Pittsburgh vs. Villanova				Spanish Football League 2004/05				Eng. Premier League Highlights 04/05		Sportscenter Asia	UEFA Champs League Magazine Show	2004 Spervitational Table Tennis C'ships	2005 Big East C'ship West Virginia vs. Syracuse				Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/ Untalkative Bunny	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Lilo & Stitch/Untalkative Bunny	What Katy Did			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim	Land Before Time V: The Mysterious Island	
Cinemax		Big Fat Liar			Tarzan's Greatest Adventure			The Postman						Framed			Unforgiven (10.35PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	While I Was Gone				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Judging Amy		Five Days To Midnight		Lives Of The Saints			Just Cause (10.35PM)		Judging Amy (11.25PM)
Discovery Channel		American Chopper		Extreme Engineering		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Civilisations	
MTV Philippines													MTV Fashionista						
Sports Plus					You've Got to See This	Italia Serie A highlight 8		Italia Serie A				NCAA s1 2		NFL Delayed Telecast		Bay Hill Invitational Day4			
EWTN	St. Matthew	Angelus (3.15PM)	Benediction And Devotion	Story Keepers	Image Of God	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Light Of The East II	Voices On Virtue	EWTN Gallery	Threshold Of Hope Encore		Sunday Night Live With Fr. Groeschel		Daily Mass		Angelus (10.15PM)	G.K. Chesterton	Catholic Compass	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
TUWING HUWEBES pagkatapos ng American Idol
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2005
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
B1

BUSINESS

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

hp ProLiant ML350
Storage Server
An entry-level tower form factor Network Attached Storage (NAS) Solution.
- Small Office or Remote Site environment
- File & Print Management with Windows Storage Server 2003 Standard Edition
- Simplified Management: Advanced WEB based Management

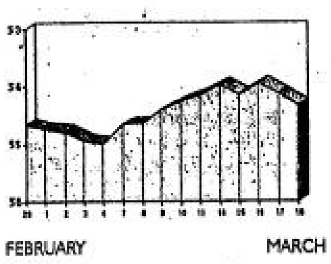
Call ICS for more info today!
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC
Tel. (632)727-3801 Web: www.ics.com.ph

$1.2-B MRT 7 project gets Neda OK

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 54.340 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., March 18, 2005

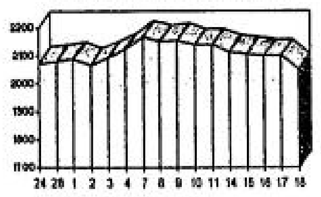
¥ 104.82 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., March 18, 2005

GOLD: $443.80-444.30
per ounce Hong Kong, March 17, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Listless trading seen

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



STOCK analysts expect listless trading during this shortened week as the stock market takes a Lenten break, noting that investors will continue to watch government's move to push for reforms once lawmakers resume sessions in April.

"Delays in the passage of the value-added tax bill have disappointed investors. Another concern includes the rise in world oil prices which may weigh on consumer sentiment," BPI Trade said in a weekly report.

Reflecting the market's sour mood, the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 87.11 points or 4.08 percent last week.

The Senate adjourned for a three-week break without passing the VAT tax bill, which would raise the tax rate by two percentage points to 12 percent. It is also a key component of an P80-billion tax reform package sought by President Macapagal-Arroyo last year, when she warned that the country was on the verge of a fiscal crisis.

Ms Arroyo is to ask Congress to hold special sessions between March 30 and April 1.

"The failure of the Senate to get anything done with VAT may hang over the market for a while unless the Senate provides some reassurance that they will get it done when they return in April," a local brokerage analyst said.

Grace Cerdenia, chief operating officer of 2TradeAsia.com, said the market was also wary of how international markets would react to the Federal Open Market Committee meeting on March 22, as it is widely expected to raise its key funds rate by a quarter of a percentage point. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE $1.2-BILLION Metro Rail Transit 7 has been cleared by the National Economic and Development Authority as one of the government's priority projects, according to Economic Planning Secretary and Neda Director General Romulo Neri.

Neri said the project no longer needed the first- and second-pass approvals as Malacañang had removed these hurdles to simplify the implementation process.

The Department of Transportation and Communication said it would likely conduct a Swiss challenge for the railway project by the middle of the year.

All unsolicited proposals for government projects had to be subjected to a Swiss challenge wherein the original proponent is given the right to match any better offer submitted by another interested group. An unsolicited offer, however, is not qualified for any government subsidy.

Universal LRT Corp. submitted an unsolicited proposal for a mass transit project from San Jose, Bulacan, to North Edsa (to link up with the MRT 3), integrating it with land transport hubs and real estate development.

Sources said officials of some of MRT 7's foreign investors, French firm Alstom and German firm Siemens, as well as certain prospective Israeli investors, were in town to look into the progress of the project.

"We are ready to review the contract of MRT 7. In the contract they would present to us, we must ensure that the project is deficit neutral and that the private group takes ridership risk and other refinements to protect the government's financial position," Neri said in an interview.

The consortium is building a $1.2-billion, 22-kilometer integrated transport system comprised of a mass transit railway to run from San Jose in Bulacan to North Edsa, a depot for public vehicles like jeepneys and buses, and an eight-story car park.

Slated for operations by 2009, MRT 7 is expected to move between 650,000 and 800,000 passengers daily. It would have 13 elevated stations and an underground (at the Quezon City memorial circle) station. The trains would run at a speed of 85 kilometers an hour, compared to MRT 3's 60 kph.

The Sy family, through SM Capital and BDO Capital, is also one of the major shareholders of Universal LRT together with the Go family of Equitable PCI Bank, Penta Capital, Japanese firm Premier Gold and EL International Corp. of businessman Eli Levin.

The World Bank's investment arm, International Finance Corp., had committed to take a 30-percent stake in the project. Foreign contractors like Japan's Sumitomo Corp., France's Alstom, Germany's Siemens, China's CNTIC, and EEI Corp. of the Yuchengco family are also part of the consortium.

5 mine projects to lure $4.3B in investments

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has identified five big-ticket mining projects that could bring in a total of $4.3 billion between 2005 and 2009 following the renewed confidence of foreign investors in the local industry.

DTI named the projects as the Far-Southeast gold project in Marokayan, Benguet, with potential investments of $500 million; the Nonoc nickel project in Surigao del Norte with $800 million; and the Boyongan copper project also in Surigao del Norte, Mindoro nickel project in Mindoro Oriental, and Pujada nickel project in Davao oriental—each with $1 billion.

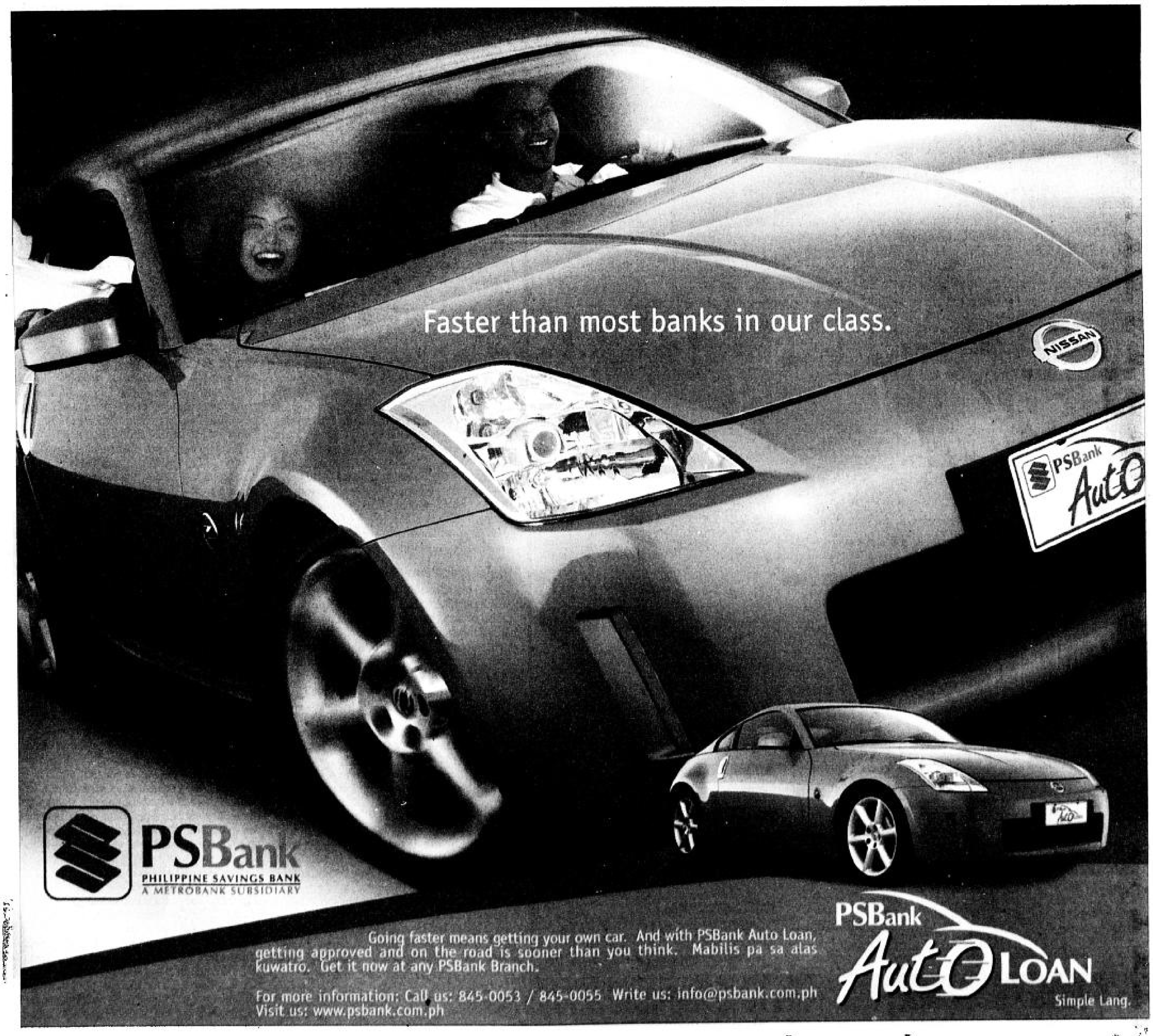
Other projects are expected to yield an additional $1.7 billion to complete the projected $6 billion in investments flowing into the mining sector between 2005 and 2009.

The projects are part of 23 mining and mineral processing projects that the government and local mining firms have aggressively promoted in international roadshows and investment missions launched since the start of the year.

According to the DTI, the biggest seven of the 23 projects alone represented a total of $3 billion in investments and some

5 MINE/B4

GMA CITES ENERGY CHIEF
President Macapagal-Arroyo lauded the accomplishments of the energy sector under outgoing Secretary Vincent Perez during the recent recognition ceremonies for outstanding electric cooperatives in the country. Ms Arroyo cited Perez's "passion for rural electrification," noting the significant increase in the number of energized barangays in the country during the latter's stint. Perez is set to turn over the energy department today to incoming secretary Rafael Perpetuo Lotilla.



Faster than most banks in our class.

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY

Going faster means getting your own car. And with PSBank Auto Loan, getting approved and on the road is sooner than you think. Mabilis pa sa alas kuwatro. Get it now at any PSBank Branch.

For more information: Call us: 845-0053 / 845-0055 Write us: info@psbank.com.ph
Visit us: www.psbank.com.ph

PSBank
AutO LOAN
Simple Lang.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ADB to issue peso-denominated bonds for local housing sector

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ASIAN Development Bank is seeking the Monetary Board's approval for its peso-denominated bond float, which is earmarked for relending to the housing sector.

The ADB will be the first triple A-rated institution to tap the Philippine capital market.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters Friday that the multilateral lender aimed to generate funds for local housing projects but the terms of the issuance have yet to be finalized.

"The impact will be positive because there will be another financial product that would be available in the domestic capital market. Then you have a multilateral institution that's very highly rated participating in the local capital markets," Tetangco said at the sidelines of a testimonial dinner hosted for him by the Bosconian International Chamber of Commerce.

The incoming BSP governor said the proposal would be discussed soon in a Monetary Board meeting. He said the ADB needed clearance because it was a multinational institution issuing local currency bonds.

He said the BSP was amenable to the ADB's request for as long as the peso proceeds would be used in the domestic market.

Asked whether the precedent to be set by ADB could crowd out local issuers, Tetangco said this was not likely to happen in the Philippines.

"It won't crowd out funds because I think there's enough liquidity and this would be targeted at a different investor base—like institutional investors looking for highly rated papers or papers of highly rated issuers," Tetangco said.

The ADB has long been planning to issue peso bonds to help perk up the local bond market. From its point of view, the participation of multinational corporations (MNCs) could have significant benefits to the development and deepening of bond markets in developing Asia.

"Among the key benefits are to attract additional foreign investors and banks, and to diversify advantages for local investors resulting from a greater choice of investment opportunities," Khempheng Pholsena, ADB vice president, said in a regional seminar for bonds in Shanghai.

"MNCs can also derive significant benefits from accessing local currency markets such as mitigating currency and maturity mismatches, lowering funding costs, and diversifying funding sources," she said.

However, Pholsena said there were some policy issues that need to be considered when opening domestic bond markets to MNCs and other foreign issuers.

In particular, one issue relates to the required opening of the capital account if local proceeds of a domestic bond issue are to be swapped into foreign currency, she said.

"The economic policy implications thus need to be carefully assessed in the overall context of financial and economic liberalization," Pholsena said. "Another potential issue concerns the possible crowding out effect if foreign issuers are perceived to compete with local issuers," she added.

SPORTFISHING BOAT FOR SALE

Name of Boat: God's Gift
Boat Design: Mako, Center Console, Walkabout
Length: 24 Ft.
Beam: 8.5 Ft.
Main Engine: Johnson Ocean Runner 150HP, 138 Running Hours
Aux. Engine: Johnson Ocean Runner 40HP, 100 Running Hours
Accessories: ICOM Base Marine Radio (VHF), HumminBird Fishfinder AM/FM Stereo with Cassette Player, Quad Speakers, 2 Bilge Pumps 750 GPM each, Quad Fog Lights, Dual Fog Horn, 6 Rubber Fenders, 6 Rod Holders, Battery Selector w/ Twin Deep Cycle Batteries Quad Wheel Trailer included (w/mags)
Asking Price: P880,000
Contact No: 0918-942-0641 or 0917-851-1712

IMI plans international IPO

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

AYALA-CONTROLLED Integrated Microelectronics Inc. (IMI) is studying a possible maiden offering in an international stock market as it positions itself as a key regional player.

Sources confirmed the company is being groomed for possible listing on tech-savvy exchanges such as the Stock Exchange of Singapore or the United States' Nasdaq.

IMI is into an aggressive expansion mode this year and is being primed as a regional player, Ayala president Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II earlier said.

Last February, IMI completed its purchase of the electronics manufacturing assets of California-based Saturn Electronics & Engineering (Tustin) Inc. and its Philippine subsidiary, Saturn Electronics Philippines Inc.

IMI is a leading electronics manufacturing service (EMS) provider in the country. Ayala Corp. owns 78.8 percent of the company while chemical firm Resins Inc. holds roughly 19.7 percent.

IMI acquired the EMS and original design manufacturing (ODM) assets of Saturn allowing it to take advantage of Saturn Tustin's facilities in Tustin, California, which include state-of-the-art technology, a design center and a program management center.

Under the deal, IMI also acquired Saturn's assembly facilities in Cebu.

"The acquisition of the EMS/ODM assets of Saturn Tustin enhances our capabilities in the areas of product design and development, manufacturing process development, and flip chip assembly, enabling us to provide competitively superior complete solutions to our customers," Arthur R. Tan, president and chief executive officer of IMI had said.

"It supports our goal of expanding our reach in our global target markets, especially in the North American market," Tan said.

IMI is mainly into electronics services. Its manufacturing facility is in Laguna. The bulk of its earnings come from the production of hard disks and optical disks.

Richard Bell, former sales director of Saturn Tustin, will take charge of IMI's sales efforts in the North American region.

"By leveraging the strengths and complementary capabilities of Saturn Tustin, IMI will pursue global outsourcing opportunities more aggressively," Tan added.

The sale will enable Saturn Electronics and Engineering Inc. to focus on its core automotive and electronics businesses.

Borderless economy in Eaga

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

IN 1994, the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga) was formed to create a mutually beneficial, socioeconomic relationship among Eaga member-countries. One of its goals was to provide an easier and freer movement of people, goods and services within the sub-region.

The officials of the BIMP-Eaga recognized that in order to achieve faster movement of goods and products, it is very important that the customs, immigration, quarantine and security of the member-countries must be streamlined and harmonized. Thus, in July 2002, a conference on BIMP-Eaga customs, immigration, quarantine and security (CIQS) was conducted in Davao City, signaling the start of the process in actualizing this proposal. Aside from this initiative, CIQS bilateral discussions were held on matters involving the Zamboanga-Sandakan, General Santos-Bitung, and the Davao-Manado port areas.

These discussions revolved around the identification of common issues and problems affecting the security of the growth area and the formulation of security action plans for land, aviation and maritime security.

Easier trade with CIQS

The businessmen were confronted with problems like harassment and extortion in different ports because of the lack of clear and transparent port policies; not all Eaga players have accepted certain international conventions and protocols, and the vague policies in some countries.

We can now see the significant changes that were achieved in harmonizing CIQS—changes that particularly benefited the Philippines. In August 2000, the first Philippine primer on CIQS was released by the Mindanao Economic Development Council and the Bureau of Immigration. The primer provided the business sector and LGUs as well as their counterparts in Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia with a complete reference list of all Philippine CIQS rules, regulations, and procedures that are followed in conducting trade and other business-related activities. In the short term, we hope to see the other member countries follow the Philippine initiative.

One can just imagine how convenient it is if traders could have all of these vital information on the CIQS requirements of the regional cooperation in one manual or primer/or website. This would save time, communication problems and other trade inconveniences.

Marked increase in Eaga trade

Trade-wise, CIQS efforts boosted the relations of the Philippines with its neighboring partners. As the country's food basket, Mindanao has performed incredibly well. It steadily marked an increase in exports to Eaga countries. For instance, Western Mindanao has increased its exports to about $39 million worth of marine and agricultural products yearly, while Northern Mindanao has increased exports of canned pineapple. Former Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima earlier attributed this trade growth to Mindanao's link to BIMP-Eaga.

To further enhance the availability of information about Mindanao and Palawan-based businesses, the Mindanao-Palawan CIQS Task Force is in the process of setting up a Philippine-Eaga one-stop action center (OSACs). This action center is planned to provide a complete reference in addressing issues and concerns involving customs, immigration, quarantine and security. It is expected that, once established, it will accelerate the processing of requirements imperative to trading and people mobility related activities.

Security

In order to fight terrorism, tight security measures must be put in place and strictly enforced. Relative to the BIMP-Eaga's CIQS initiatives, the Australian government has committed to assist Mindanao and Palawan in developing and strengthening its counter-terrorism capabilities. The two region-members of the growth area are the target beneficiaries of this project due to its geographic proximity to Indonesia, where the Jemaah Islamiya groups in Southeast Asia are allegedly concentrated.

Soon there will be a signing of the MOA for the security arrangements for public and private ports and private vessels, which shall set up viable and workable security system for private vessels, and public and private ports.

Our ultimate vision is to have a unified CIQS in all Eaga ports and we are optimistic that this will bring about a true regional cooperation among the four countries resulting in borderless trading and exchange of goods and services!

(Joji Ilagan Bian is a strong advocate for Mindanao; member, Export Development Council and former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Vice chair of the Mindanao Commission of Women and National Corn Board; chair of the Mindanao TVET. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

FUSION CARE

THE BEST CARE THAT THE EAST AND WEST CAN OFFER

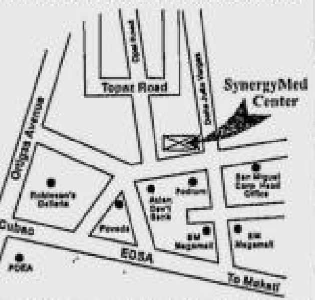
Just a few of the illnesses proven cured by Acupuncture and Acupressure:

Lower Back Pains • Cough/Colds • Neck & Shoulder Pains • Eating Disorders • Arthritis • Bell's Palsy or facial paralysis • Allergic rhinitis • Problems of scoliosis • Stroke • Indigestion or poor digestion • Headache / Migraine • Depression / Anxiety • Sleeplessness • Hypertension • Muscular Strain • Elevated Uric Acid • Poor blood circulation • Cold feet and hands • Prostrate problems • Tennis elbow • Irregular menstruation / dysmenorrhea • Infertility

Holistic Program
(Executive Check-up)
Both our Western and Eastern doctors are equipped with modern tools and top-of-the-line clinical laboratory to provide our patients with an accurate and reliable diagnosis to precisely identify their needed medical attention. Traditional Chinese Medical treatments are made available and incorporated in our unique system for a holistic approach to total health care and maintenance.

Free initial consultation
For your convenience, please call our hotline nos. for reservations:
631-2611 • 631-4210 • 631-2742
631-9872 • 634-5689 • 631-4793

Adjudged as the Most Outstanding Acupuncture and Acupressure Center for the following:
2004 Buyer's Choice Award
2004 National Shopper's Choice Annual Award
2004 People's Choice Award
2004 11th Asia Pacific Excellence Award
2004 National Consumer's Quality Award
2003 Year Ender Consumer's Choice Award



SynergyMed
THE BEST CARE THAT THE EAST AND WEST CAN OFFER
23/ F Discovery Suites, ADB Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
www.fp-synergymed.com

Other services: Chinese Foot Therapy, Chinese Body Massage, Abdomen Vibration Therapy, Ear Acupuncture Therapy, Pre-employment and Annual physical examinations.

RCBC Savings Bank
A YGC Member

DREAM BUYS AUCTION

Presenting great properties at unbelievable prices! Check them out now!

APRIL 2, 9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON, STARMALL TRADEHALL, 2/F STARMALL MANUELA, EDSA COR. SHAW BLVD., MANDALUYONG CITY

As much as **10% discount** for cash buyers on selected properties

For P100,000 — For as low as P2,244 per month for 5 years
For P300,000 — For as low as P4,840 per month for 10 years
For P400,000 — For as low as P6,453 per month for 10 years
For P1,000,000 — For as low as P16,134 per month for 10 years

Old Balara, Quezon City — GRANDWOOD VILLAS — TOWNHOUSE

L.A. 111 sqm.	P 1,215,000
L.A. 79 sqm.	P 1,300,000
L.A. 100 sqm.	P 1,925,000
L.A. 64 sqm.	P 2,500,000

Antipolo City — HILLS OF MAIA ALTA — HOUSE AND LOT

L.A. 102 sqm.	F.A. 56 sqm.	P 650,000
L.A. 96 sqm.	F.A. 70 sqm.	P 990,000
L.A. 120 sqm.	F.A. 80 sqm.	P 1,200,000
L.A. 126 sqm.	F.A. 92 sqm.	P 1,600,000

Antipolo City — COTTONWOODS HIEGHTS — HOUSE AND LOT

L.A. 203 sqm.	F.A. 116 sqm.	P 2,100,000
L.A. 266 sqm.	F.A. 136 sqm.	P 2,700,000
L.A. 340 sqm.	F.A. 147 sqm.	P 3,100,000
L.A. 404 sqm.	F.A. 168 sqm.	P 3,600,000

Antipolo City — BENTLEY PARK SUBD. — TOWNHOUSE

L.A. 220 sqm.	P 801,500
L.A. 246 sqm.	P 861,000
L.A. 276 sqm.	P 966,000
L.A. 265 sqm.	P 980,500

Dasmariñas, Cavite — LA MEDITERRANEA — HOUSE AND LOT

L.A. 110 sqm	F.A. 72 sqm	P 900,000
L.A. 140 sqm.	F.A. 83 sqm.	P 1,260,000
L.A. 242 sqm.	F.A. 83 sqm	P 1,475,000
L.A. 110 sqm.	F.A. 126 sqm.	P 1,600,000

Sta. Rosa, Laguna — BELLE REVE — RESIDENTIAL LOT

530 sqm	P 3,000,000
637 sqm.	P 4,000,000
744 sqm	P 4,500,000
824 sqm	P 5,000,000

Sta. Rosa, Laguna — LA RESIDENCIA — RESIDENTIAL LOT

150 sqm.	P 900,000
232 sqm	P 1,300,000
150 sqm.	P 1,600,000
335 sqm	P 2,300,000

San Pedro, Laguna — LA MAREA — HOUSE AND LOT

L.A. 135 sqm.	F.A. 78 sqm.	P 1,200,000
L.A. 128 sqm	F.A. 94 sqm	P 1,395,000
L.A. 181 sqm.	F.A. 157 sqm.	P 2,800,000
L.A. 573 sqm	F.A. 82 sqm	P 3,056,000

Las Piñas — BF RESORT EXEC. VILL. — HOUSE AND LOT

L.A. 100 sqm.	F.A. 60 sqm.	P 1,020,000
L.A. 150 sqm.	F.A. 68 sqm.	P 1,500,000
L.A. 100 sqm.	F.A. 60 sqm.	P 2,385,000
L.A. 240 sqm.	F.A. 395 sqm	P 5,560,000

CALOOCAN
RCBC1_SB007 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 50 sqm F.A. 40 sqm B13 L4 Whispering Palms Min. Bid Price : P 800,000
RCBC1_SB011 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 153 sqm F.A. 70.18 sqm. 20 Athens Vista Verde North Min. Bid Price : P 1,020,000
RCBC1_SB009 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 226 sqm. F.A. 200 sqm B4 L25 Pleasant View Subd. Min. Bid Price : P 2,450,000
RCBC1_SB206 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 99 sqm. F.A. 100 sqm B1 L1 Palmera Spring Min. Bid Price : P 1,200,000
RCBC1_SB010 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 216 sqm F.A. 175 sqm. B1 L17 Hillcrest Subd. Min Bid Price P 2 250 000

LAS PINAS
RCBC1_SB168 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 120 sqm F.A. 105 sqm. B7-A L13, Revolution St. CH - Classic., Almanza Min. Bid Price : P 1,370,000
RCBC1_SB170 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 315 sqm F.A. 194 sqm. 2 Uranium St., Camella Homes Classic IV Min Bid Price : P 2,550,000
RCBC1_SB173 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 148 sqm F.A. 180 sqm No. 54 Minuet St., Sta. Cecilia Village, Talon Dos Min. Bid Price : P 1,800,000
RCBC1_SB174 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 238 sqm F.A. 112 sqm No. 81, Dao Street, Pilar Village, Min. Bid Price P 2,000,000
RCBC1_SB367 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 298 sqm Blk. 13 lot 13 St. Dominic cor. St., George St., Metrocor Subd. Min Bid Price P 1,192,000

MAKATI CITY
RCBC1_SB216 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 273 sqm FA 193 sqm Pembo, Fort Bonifacio Min. Bid Price : P 2,760,000
RCBC1_SB217 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 66 sqm FA 139 sqm Madras St. Blk. 31 Lot 139 Palanan Min Bid Price : P 4,250,000
RCBC1_SB218 - RSD'L LOT L.A. 109 sqm FA 84 sqm Tejeros, 5124 Malolos St. Min Bid Price P 3,610,000

MANILA
RCBC1_SB219 - CONDOMINIUM FA 70 sqm Empire Plaza Condo, Unit 1207 Min Bid Price : P 5,360,000
RCBC1_SB220 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 113 sqm FA 73 sqm 08 Callejon St., Kristineville Exec. Homes Min Bid Price P 1,920,000

MARIKINA
RCBC2_SB012 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 420 sqm F.A. 310 sqm Twinville Subd Min Bid Price P 3,600,000
RCBC1_SB209 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 350 sqm. F.A. 505 sqm #50 Sta. Ana Ext., San Roque Min Bid Price : P 5,960,000
RCBC1_SB210 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 300m F.A. 91qm B11 L7 Marikina Greenheights Min Bid Price P 2 950 000

MUNTINLUPA
RCBC2_SB014 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 164 sqm F.A. 138 sqm L2 B12 Lakeshore Drive, Tunasan Min Bid Price : P 1,800,000
RCBC2_SB016 - RSD'L LOT L.A. 312 sqm L11 B53 Orchids St., South Greenhills Subd. Min Bid Price P 900,000

RCBC2_SB017 - COMM'L BLDG. L.A. 765 sqm F.A. 585 sqm. 247 Int. Montilano St. Alabang Min Bid Price P 4 800 000

PASAY
RCBC1_SB221 - RSD'L LOT FA 33 sqm Blk. 17 Lot 06, Tugas St. Bo. San Jose Min. Bid Price : P CALL US
RCBC1_SB222 - RSD'L LOT FA 47 sqm Unit 1108, 11th Flr. Sen. 501 Gil Puyat, Buendia Tower Min Bid Price : P 1,720,000.00
RCBC1_SB223 - RSD'L LOT FA 43.67 sqm. Rom 803, 8th Flr. Buendia Towers Min Bid Price P 2 090 000.00

PASIG CITY
RCBC1_SB226 - CONDOMINIUM F.A. 106.687 sqm Unit 2105 Galleria Suites, Ortigas Area Min Bid Price : P 6,935,000
RCBC1_SB020 - CONDO 2 UNITS F.A. 73.97 sqm /unit Unit F-301 / F-302 Hampton Gardens, Maybunga Min Bid Price : P 2,750,000
RCBC1_SB021 - CONDO UNIT F.A. 30 sqm Unit L101-A-L101 OMM San Miguel Ave. Min Bid Price P 2 940 000

QUEZON CITY
RCBC_LMF - HOUSE & LOT SEMI COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL WALKING DISTANCE TO LRT STATION L.A. 300 sqm F.A. 250 sqm 36 BOSTON ST., CUBAO Min. Bid Price : P 6,000,000
RCBC1_SB032 - TOWNHOUSE L.A. 37.4 sqm F.A. 50.05 sqm. Unit 207-G South Triangle Min. Bid Price : P 2,150,000
RCBC1_SB229 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 58.63 sqm. F.A. 119 sqm. 159 L42 Unit2 West Fairview Min Bid Price P 1,904,000.00
RCBC1_SB023 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 109 sqm F.A. 150 sqm B10 L1-A Buick Subd. Fairview Min Bid Price : P 1,715,000
RCBC1_SB028 - RSDL LOT L.A. 325 sqm. L14 B26 J Fuentes Dr. 1428 North Susana Exec Vill. Min Bid Price P 3,000,000
RCBC1_SB230 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 128 sqm F.A. 192 sqm Unit 5 #112 Pluto Carmel Subd. Proj. 6 Min. Bid Price : P 3,250,000
RCBC1_SB231 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 450 sqm F.A. 200 sqm B48 L11 Mustang St., Fairview Min Bid Price : P 2,060,000
RCBC1_SB033 - RSDL LOT L.A. 212 sqm B16 L2 Marytown Circle, Novaliches Min Bid Price P 2,300,000
RCBC1_SB027 - RSDL LOT L.A. 73 sqm L6-D Jem 3 Subd. Bantat Min Bid Price P 1,150,000
RCBC1_SB232 - RSDL LOT L.A. 526 sqm B11 L30 Fairview Park Subd. Min Bid Price P CALL US
RCBC1_SB029 - TOWNHOUSE L.A. 90 sqm F.A. 100 sqm Unit 8 Adelfa 5 Park Townhomes Min Bid Price P 1,000,000
RCBC1_SB030 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 376 sqm F.A. 642 sqm 23 Pinecrest Greenview Exec. Subd. Min Bid Price P 9,250,000
RCBC1_SB233 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 400 sqm F.A. 300 sqm 19 Ponbac St. Fairview Park Subd. Min. Bid Price . P 2,000,000
RCBC1_SB034 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 79.3 sqm F.A. 109 sqm 11 Cama DRJ Subd., Sauyo Novaliches Min Bid Price P 1,020,000
RCBC1_SB238 - RSDL LOT L.A. 120 sqm 328 L6 Goodwill Subd. San Bartolome Min Bid Price P CALL US

RCBC1_SB042 - TOWNHOUSE L.A. 51.6 sqm F.A. 78 sqm Unit 8 Apa Comp TS Min. Bid Price : P 1,350,000
RCBC1_SB239 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 203 sqm F.A. 56 sqm B22 L18 Lagro Subd. Novaliches Min Bid Price : P 1,000,000.00
RCBC1_SB041 - RSDL LOT L.A. 110 sqm F.A. 125.6 sqm. #18 Angel St., Napocor Village TS Min. Bid Price : P 830,000
RCBC1_SB024 - RSDL LOT L.A. 150.7 sqm L9 Marry Homes Fairview Min. Bid Price : P 1,275,000
RCBC1_SB026 - RSDL LOT L.A. 72.5 sqm L9-A-2 Dasca Exec. Homes Fairview Min Bid Price P 660,000

VALENZUELA
RCBC1_SB044 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 310 sqm F.A. 360 sqm. 218 20th cor. 19th St., Fortune Vill.6 Bgy. Parada Min Bid Price : P 4,530,000
RCBC1_SB045 - RSDL LOT L.A. 247 sqm 233 20th St., Fortune Village Min Bid Price : P 2,660,000
RCBC1_SB242 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 244 sqm F.A. 120 sqm. #167 6th St., Fortune Vill.5 Bgy. Paso de Blas Min Bid Price : P 1,275,000
RCBC1_SB243 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 186 sqm F.A. 298.5 sqm #3 Little Baguio Malinta Min Bid Price : P 2,750,000
RCBC1_SB046 - COMM'L HIGH RISE BLDG L.A. 949.8 sqm FA CALL US 203 McArthur Karuhatan Min Bid Price : P 18,940,000
RCBC1_SB244 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 215.8 sqm F.A. 258.7 sqm. 5043 Sto. Rosario Modesto St., Mapulang Lupa Min Bid Price P 3,480,000

ANTIPOLO
RCBC2_SB056 - RSDL LOT L.A. 2,415 sqm L1 B14 Victoria Valley Subd., Mayamot Min. Bid Price : P 3,800,000
RCBC2_SB286 - RSDL CMPD. L.A. 1,305 sqm F.A. 744 sqm. #27 Sunrise cor. 4th Ave. Beverly Hills Subd. Min Bid Price : P 13,000,000
RCBC2_SB058 - RSDL LOT L.A. 1,030 sqm. Mission Hills Min Bid Price : P 4,000,000
RCBC2_SB059 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 172 sqm F.A. 200 sqm 397 Dela Virgen St., San Isidro Poblacion Min Bid Price : P 1,000,000
RCBC1_SB084 - RSDL LOT L.A. 2,415 sqm B14 L17 Victoria Valley Min Bid Price : P 3,880,000
RCBC1_SB065 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 170 sqm F.A. 50 sqm S7 L7, 9 & 11 Loremar Exec. Min Bid Price : P 3,200,000
RCBC1_SB066 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 149 sqm F.A. 70 sqm. S7 L1 Crestview Min. Bid Price : P 900,000
RCBC1_SB282 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 50 sqm. F.A. 30 sqm B15 L23 Woodrow Min Bid Price P CALL US

BULACAN
RCBC2_SB069 - RSDL LOT L.A. 480 sqm Eucalyptus St., Greenplains, Calumpit Min Bid Price P 1,690,000
RCBC2_SB070 - COMM'L LOT L.A. 2,471 sqm Burol 1st, Balagtas Min Bid Price P 20,000,000
RCBC2_SB371 - IND'L WAREHOUSE L.A. 848 sqm F.A. 609 sqm. RIS Industrial Complex, Mercado St. Guiguinto Min Bid Price P 8,200,000
RCBC2_SB074 - RESDL LOT L.A. 5,497 sqm Barrio Mabalo, Malolos Min. Bid Price P 5,600,000
RCBC2_SB075 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 204.28 sqm F.A. 110 sqm. F. Estrella St., Malolos Min. Bid Price: P 1,020,000
RCBC2_SB077 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 764 sqm F.A. 132 sqm Lot 678 Agnaya, Plaridel Min. Bid Price: P 3,285,000
RCBC1_SB080 - RSDL LOT L.A. 3,958 sqm Lot 3004 C Camangyanan, Sta. Maria Min. Bid Price: P 2,420,000
RCBC1_SB078 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 45 sqm F.A. 23 sqm 589 Parulan, Plaridel Min. Bid Price: P 1,000,000
RCBC1_SB089 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 70 sqm F.A. 48 sqm. L1087 Bocaue Min. Bid Price: P 1,060,000
RCBC1_SB084 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 120 sqm F.A. 100 sqm. Cutcot, Pulilan Min. Bid Price: P 6,600,000
RCBC1_SB085 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 360 sqm F.A. 120 sqm. B2 L5 & L7 Violeta Motroville, Bocaue Min Bid Price P 2,870,000
RCBC1_SB088 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 1,402 sqm F.A. 60 sqm Sapang Palay, SJDM Min Bid Price: P 11,800,000
RCBC1_SB095 - RSDL LOT L.A. 1,421 sqm Camia cor. Everlasting Corliss Homes SJDM Min Bid Price P 1,400,000
RCBC1_SB090 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 1,528 sqm F.A. 305 sqm 229 Manatal Pandi Min Bid Price P 5,560,000
RCBC1_SB276 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 207 sqm F.A. 80 sqm 89 Sumapang Bato, Malolos Min Bid Price P 1,200,000
RCBC1_SB081 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 1,705 sqm F.A. 100 sqm 219 Liwasan San Vicente, Sta. Maria Min Bid Price P 2,800,000
RCBC1_SB087 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 285 sqm F.A. 76 sqm. 147 Bunlo St., Bocaue Min. Bid Price: P 2,200,000
RCBC1_SB270 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 259 sqm F.A. 160 sqm B37 L6 Bulihan Garden Vill. Sta. Maria Min Bid Price P 3,000,000
RCBC1_SB104 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 1,000 sqm F.A. 140 sqm. Sta Rosa II, Marilao Min Bid Price P 2,650,000
RCBC1_SB079 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 540 sqm F.A. 200 sqm 5069 Mary Grace Subd. Sto. Niño, Plaridel Min Bid Price P 2,130,000

CABANATUAN
RCBC1_SB106 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 6,686 sqm F.A. 1,310 sqm. Lot 1300 D Salaysay, Cabanatuan Min Bid Price P [illegible]

CAVITE
RCBC2_SB306 - HOUSE & LOT LA 231 sqm FA 130 sqm Blk. 04 lot 23, Via Verde Village, Poblacion, Dasma Min Bid Price P 1,620,000

ILOILO CITY
RCBC2_SB137 - RSDL LOT, L.A. 3,060 sqm Divinagracia St., La Paz Min Bid Price P 7,250,000

LAGUNA
RCBC2_SB330 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 300 sqm F.A. 110 sqm Paciano Complex, no. 13 C.P. Garcia Min Bid Price P 2,468,000
RCBC2_SB331 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 252 sqm Fa sqm 100 Lakeshore Homes, Subd. #240 Rosal St., Sto. Domingo, Bay Min. Bid Price. P 1,630,000
RCBC1_SB156 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 550 sqm FA 450 sqm 88 L 4,5,6,&7 Don Manuel Subd., Pila Min. Bid Price: P 5,800,000
RCBC1_SB333 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 190/268 sqm FA 430 sqm B3 L 31 & 32 Jamaica Hills Subd., Bambang Min. Bid Price: P 5,830,000
RCBC2_SB334 - RSDL & LOT L.A. 150/220/174 sqm Blk. 21 lot's 33-35, Villa Esmeralda, San LorenzoVillage, Sta. Rosa Min Bid Price. P 2,807,000
RCBC1_SB339 - RSDL LOT L.A. 832 sqm L08 B03 Promenade Subd. Sta. Rosa Min Bid Price P 5,410,000
RCBC1_SB340 - RSDL LOT L.A. 736 sqm L3 B12 Promenade Subd., Sta. Rosa Min Bid Price P 4,805,000
RCBC1_SB341 - RSDL LOT L.A. 875 sqm L5 B5 Promenade Subd., Sta. Rosa Min. Bid Price P 5,570,000
RCBC2_SB143 - RSDL LOT L.A. 575 sqm L9 B13 Promenade Subd., Sta. Rosa Min Bid Price P 3,500,000
RCBC1_SB344 - RSDL LOT L.A. 271 sqm FA 150 sqm Bo. Sinalhan, Bo. Rd., Sta. Rosa Min Bid Price P CALL US

PAMPANGA
RCBC1_SB180 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 690 sqm F.A. 250 sqm B7 L2 Greenfields Country Club, San Fernando Min. Bid Price: P 4,165,000
RCBC1_SB141 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 259 sqm F.A. 160 sqm B37 L6 Bulihan Garden Vill., Sta Maria Min Bid Price P 3,000,000

CAINTA, TAYTAY, ANGONO, RIZAL
RCBC2_SB193 - COMM'L LOT L.A. 1,769 sqm Felix Ave. Cainta Min Bid Price P 17,000,000
RCBC2_SB194 - COMM'L LOT L.A. 1,316 sqm Bgy. San Juan, Cainta Min Bid Price: P 13,200,000
RCBC2_SB296 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 110 sqm F.A. 202 sqm Doña Nieves, Sto. Niño, Angono Min Bid Price: P 2,000,000
RCBC2_SB195 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 264 sqm. F.A. 405 sqm 3rd Street, St. Martin Subd., Angono Min Bid Price P 990,000
RCBC2_SB199 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 150 sqm F.A. 140 sqm Ridgemont Exec. Vill., San Isidro, Taytay Min. Bid Price: P 2,000,000
RCBC2_SB200 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 100 sqm F.A. 234 sqm 18 Sampaguita St., Ananonsu Subd., San Mateo Min Bid Price. P 900,000
RCBC2_SB202 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 240 sqm F.A. 232 sqm. L20 B5 Marvi Hills Subd., San Mateo Min Bid Price. P 1,700,000
RCBC1_SB205 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 60 sqm. F.A. 65 sqm. Binangonan Min Bid Price: P 2,050,000
RCBC1_SB300 - HOUSE & LOT L.A. 210 sqm F.A. 260 sqm 38 Ostos St., Filinvest East Homes, Cainta Min Bid Price: P 1,860,000

*Subject to bank approval. Properties and prices are subject to change without prior notice. The bank reserves the right to withdraw any property for whatever reason. Show money Php25,000 Cash/MC per property. All properties for sale are on "As is where is" basis.

AUCTION MANAGER: PROPERTY FORUM PHILS.

TELEPHONE NOS: 534-9536 / 534-6954 Monday to Sunday 7AM to 7PM
CALL CENTER: 633-1988 to 90 Monday to Sunday 10AM to 9PM
CELLPHONE NO.: 0916-2224733

Amalgamated sells Cashrounds shares

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

INVESTMENT house Amalgamated Investment Bancorp. (AIB) has ceded control of publicly-listed online investment firm Cashrounds Inc. to a local holding company.

Gamboa Holdings Inc., an investment company which holds office at the Orient Square Building in Ortigas, has agreed to take over Cashrounds by buying two-thirds of AIB's 97-percent stake in Cashrounds.

The equivalent of 18.17 million Cashrounds shares were sold for P74.4 million, payable in two tranches, it said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Gamboa Holdings which has filed a tender offer report, or an offer to buyout minority shareholders with the Securities and Exchange Commission, plans to expand Cashrounds' business to include cash remittance and integrating wireless communication technologies.

Seven years ago , Gamboa Holdings was reportedly 60-percent owned by ACCRA Investments Corp., 40-percent owned by a subsidiary of communications firm Nextel International.

It has also been reported to hold a stake in Nextel Communications Philippines.

Documents about Gamboa Holdings were not immediately available.

Cashrounds is an information technology service company wholly owned by investment house, Amalgamated Investment Bancorp. (AIB).

It was originally incorporated as MF Schroeder & Co. Inc. in June 1996 and was initially authorized to engage in securities and equities trading.

Last year, Cashrounds asked the SEC if it could operate an alternative trading system (ATS).

With the license to run an ATS, an electronic market for buyers and sellers of securities.

Cashrounds, which had effectively been carrying on ATS operations even before the SEC came out with the rules, sought the SEC's permission to be temporarily exempted from coverage under the ATS rules.

Cashrounds would then be allowed to set up an electronic facility for investors and private companies to buy and sell securities.

Unlike the regular stock market, the company does not engage in daily trades, and the deals they broker are usually for medium-term and long-term investors who want to invest in private SMEs.

Sugar prices rise on higher exports

By Christine A. Gaylican

SUGAR prices are on the rise as the country's export program gains ground, according to the Sugar Regulatory Authority.

SRA Administrator James Christopher Ledesma said in an interview that sugar millgate prices rose in the past weeks to between P800-P850 per 50-kilogram bag, from the January level of between P650-P700.

"The strong and sustained rally of sugar millgate prices since January is a clear indication that the export program is working and taking effect," Ledesma said.

The Philippine sugar export program was designed to siphon off excess sugar production to stabilize prices and tap new markets

The Philippine Sugar Millers Association said it has exported some 12,000 tons of raw sugar as of February.

This brings the total export volume since August last year to over 127,000 tons.

These exports, however, are priced lower at P550 per 50-kilogram bag.

The United States is one of the country's traditional export markets.

For this year, the US granted the Philippines an export quota allocation of 142,000 metric tons, slightly higher than the 137,352 MT quota last year.

The Philippines was granted the third biggest allocation by the United States, after the Dominican Republic and Brazil.

Other countries with export quotas to the US include Australia—87,402 MT and Argentina—45,281 MT.

Ledesma explained that the with the price levels improving, the SRA was now considering the earlier release of the "C" reserve sugar to the world market to help generate more cash for the farmers.

Ledesma added that the US quota should assure local sugar producers of stable prices.

The Office of the United States Trade Representative recently announced the quota allocation of raw cane sugar, refined sugar, and sugar containing products for fiscal year 2005.

A tariff-rate quota is an import policy that allows countries to ship specified quantities of a product to the US at a relatively low tariff, but subjects all other imports of that product to a higher tariff.

Summer Outing Package
Day Swimming (8am-5pm) Entrance/Swimming/Cottage Php 80.00
Riverview
Resort & Conference Center
Night Swimming (6pm-1am) Entrance/Swimming/Cottage Php 95.00
• Entrance & Swimming Fee
• Access to a near Olympic size Pool with 20 ft. high twister slide • Access to kiddie pool with slide
• Use of Open Native Huts • Use of Common Shower & Bath
• Free use of Barbeque Grill • 15% Discount on Bowling Games
• Ample Parking Space
Cell. No.: 0918-9142837 • 0917-5449913 Manila: (02) 925-8858 / 928-4014
Calamba: (049) 545-1856 / 545-2112 Website: www.riverview.com.ph

Chic Uniform, Inc.
WE MAKE UNIFORMS FOR
• OFFICES • SCHOOLS • FACTORIES •
• HOSPITALS • SECURITY GUARDS •
• NURSES • HOUSEKEEPERS •
• READY-MADE SCRUB SUIT •
Unit 27-Q Burgundy Corporate Tower
252 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Call us: 843-7633 / 843-7539 / 843-7637

COOL-IT IN SUBIC
- ONE ROOM NIGHT W/ 3 FULL MEALS
- HOT WATER & AIRCON W/PRIVATE T & B
₱645/PAX – 3/ROOM SHARING
- SEMINAR VENUE W/ PROPS & SNACK
- GARDENS, SWIMMING POOL, & CABLE TV
ALL-IN VALUE SEMINARS
CROWN PEAK HOTELS TELS: (047) 252-3144 / 252-8738 TEL.FAX 252-6058
MOBILE # [illegible]

"YOUR OFFICE MACHINE-SOLUTION PROVIDER"
e-mail us at: inquire_dlink@yahoo.com
Made in USA
HEAVY DUTY PUNCHERS
• Can Punch up to 500 sheets
• Selectable Punching Width
KITANO
LAMINATORS
• Adjustable Temperature Control
• Laminating Width: 13 inches / A3 Size
TIME STAMPING MACHINE
• Prints Company Initials
• Up to 8 Digits Numbering
• Adjustable printing position
• Heavy Duty
STENCIL DUPLICATOR
• 40-120 copies per minute
• Electric & Manual Operation
• Adjustable Printing Position
• Pre-set Counter
TIME RECORDERS
• Two color printing
• W/ Musical Melody
• Auto Column Shifting
• With Back-up Battery
PLASTIC COMB BINDERS
• 500 sheets Binding Capacity
• 20-25 sheets Punching Capacity
• 24 Holes / 14 inches
• W/ Punching Selection
☎ 8905310 • 8905320 • 8905327
8983431 • 8983432 • 8967764

We'll fix it FAST!
Fax Machines • Computers • Monitors • Printers (Laser, Deskjet, Dot Matrix)
• Key Telephone Systems • Bundy Clock • Answering Machines
• Paper Shredders • UPS-AVRs • Typewriters and other office equipments
hp Panasonic EPSON SHARP OKI XEROX SANYO RICOH SAMSUNG brother muratec Canon
CITIWORLD
GUARANTEED 60 MINS. SERVICES RESPONSE
Main Office: Lower Ground, David 1 Building, 567 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos.: 725-7031 / 724-5823 / 723-4894
Makati Office: 3A, Trans-Phil House 1177 Chino Roces Ave., Corner Bagtikan St., Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 895-1435 / 896-6032

PSBank
Peso TIME DEPOSIT

Deposit Amount (in pesos)	30 days	60 days	90 days	1 year
100,000 - 499,999	4.625	4.750	4.875	5.000
500,000 - 999,999	5.250	5.375	5.500	5.750
1.0MM - 4,999,999	5.500	5.750	5.875	6.000
5.0MM - 9,999,999	5.750	6.000	6.125	6.250
10 million and up	6.000	6.250	6.500	6.750

Interest Rates (%)
Quoted rates are subject to change without prior notice.
Rates are on per annum basis and net of documentary stamp taxes.
Interest rates for other terms also available.
Visit any of our 139 PSBank Branches nationwide.
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P250,000.00

PCs, Printers, Projectors, et al ... for rent!
We meet your IT rental needs with our most comprehensive product line.
• Projectors
• Desktop PC
• Server PC
• Notebook PC
• Line Printer
• Laser Printer
• Barcode Printer
• ID Printer
• 3KVA-10KVA UPS
• Switches
• Routers
• Wireless LAN
• Wireless WAN
• Remote Access
• Firewall
• Videoconferencing
• PABX
• Tape drive
• Scanner
RENTech COMPUTER CORP
Your One-Stop I.T. Rental Shop
Call us now @ 727-7222 www.rentech.com.ph

Attention! MIS/ Property Managers., Telco's, ISP's, System Integrators, Resellers, IP Camera Installers, POS Dealers etc.
INTRODUCING – the new T-LAN Broadband Last-Mile Access Equipment that provides stable and consistent transmission of simultaneous data and voice up to 2Mbps through existing 2-wire telephone lines within 1 km wire length.
Low-Cost Solution to High-Speed Internet Access
Ideal for MDU (Multiple Dwelling Units) such as: hotels, resorts, condos, campuses, malls, buildings, airports, manufacturing firms, country clubs etc.

IP-Camera
P.O.S.
FingerScan
Notebook
PC
Phone
1.2 km. Distance tel. line
Internet
Voice
Data
Video
T-LAN Central Unit
T-LAN SU-400

Other Products:
Remote-IP Camera, Finger Scan, V-Streamer, Wi-Fi, Routers & IP Phones
For Inquiries: Tel. 636-3217
Telefax: 636-3218
Or to all our resellers nationwide
(Manila, Cebu, Davao)
GIGALINK
Exclusive Distributor:
Giga link Information Telecom, Inc.
Unit 2415 Medical Plaza Ortigas
San Miguel Ave., Pasig City

Constrained by the limitations of your current system/s?
Need advanced functionalities but has no budget for ERP systems?
A Perfect Solution!
TeamBooks
[Philippine Version – VAT Capable]
Accounting, Logistics, POS, CRM, Doc Mgmt, Schedule, Email, etc.- all in one system!
Standard Features:
- Active Open Window Concept
- Contact Management Center
- Multi- Currency Capability
- Office Document Handler
- LAN/WAN, Single or Multi-Users
- Multi-Warehouse / Locations
- Fully and Easily Customizable
- Powerful Reporting Facilities
- Robust Technical Platform
- User and Group Security
Scaleable, Quick Set-Up, Easy to Use, Highly Customizable, Value for Money!
Standard Functionalities:
- Sales Orders, Invoicing, POS
- Receivable & Credit Management
- Purchase Order Processing
- Payables & Vendor Management
- Inventory Management & Control Work Orders & Manufacturing
- Job Costing and Project Accounting
- Rental Billing and Management
- GL, Segmentation and Budgets
- Payroll Processing
VERSIONS – CAN HANDLE ANY BUSINESS TYPE / SIZE
LITE
- Maximum 3 users
- Single Warehouse
- POS (at minimal cost)
- MS Access Back-end
PRO
- Unlimited No. of Users
- Standard Features (incl POS)
- Standard Functionalities
- MS Access Back-end
ENTERPRISE
- Unlimited No. of Users
- For companies with >20 users
- Full PRO Features / Functionalities
- SQL or Oracle Server Back-end
Note : Source Codes can be purchased separately for unlimited customization!
Value-Added Partners and Resellers Invited!
Inter.Act Online Services
Telephone: 806-6760 / 806-8279
Email: IOSTeamBooks@lycos.co.uk

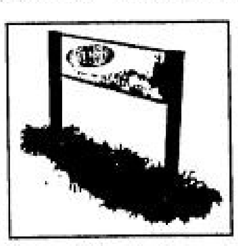
Panalo ka sa kakaibang negosyong ito!
Roland
The No. 1 Choice of Signmakers around the World.
Your fast track to BIG time advertising

SolJet Pro II
Made in Japan

Billboards

Fleet Graphics

Posters & Outdoor Signs



Banners & Streamers

Tradeshows & Events

Roland Soljet Pro 2 delivers superb graphics fast, your customers will keep coming back...
• solvent ink costs 80% less than dye ink
• print on various media – tarpaulin, vinyl sticker, photopaper, backlit films, cloth
• print up to 1440 dpi resolution
• no lamination required unlike with dye-based
Exclusive Distributor:
Tgraf TEAM GRAPHICS
Tel: 726-3991 to 98 locals 232,204,203
Fax: 723-7951
Email: inquire@tgraf.com.ph
www.tgraf.com.ph
Other Tgraf business packages include: Xerox Phaser for Print-on-Demand, Roland Cutters for signmaking, Roland Versacamm for labels and stickers, Javelin for ID card printing , Ilford Studio digital photo enlargements for photographers, and more. Call us NOW and put yourself in a fresh, new business!!

Bangkok by the dozen, weekly
12/7
Thai
THAI now flies 12 times to Bangkok in a 7-day period.
Added to our 2:40* PM daily flight to Bangkok,and to our 8:30 PM flight every Tuesday, Friday and Sunday, are the two new flights also leaving Manila at 8:30 PM every Wednesday and Thursday. On each trip you'll enjoy legendary Royal Orchid Service and earn miles with Royal Orchid Plus, Asia's premier frequent flyer programme. Experience Thailand's gateway city aboard beautiful THAI.
* effective 28 March 2005
For more information, please call your travel agent or THAI: Makati 812.4744 · Manila 528.0122 to 25 · Cebu (032) 232.2405

Economic injustice and VAT

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

THE PHILIPPINE tax system is unjust enough the way it is. But the way the VAT bill is shaping up in Congress, this prominent part of the Philippine tax system—which makes up about a fifth of all tax revenues—is about to further heighten the injustice that's already inherent in the revenue system. It seems that the more time our lawmakers take to work on revenue measures, the more ways they find to let some rich and powerful vested interests evade taxes legally, while the rest of us who pay the bulk of our taxes without the money ever passing our hands (because the taxes are already withheld at the source of our incomes) are made to shell out more and more. Life is indeed unfair—but one gets the feeling that life is even more unfair here in the Philippines.

Cheaper for the rich

Injustices exist in the overall economic system that keep widening the gaps between rich and poor—things I like to refer to as perverse realities. Consider bank loans, for example. Large borrowers who can well afford to pay regular market interest rates are the ones who get the cheapest terms (e.g. at "super prime rates" significantly lower than the market rates regular borrowers have to pay), and often on a "clean" or unsecured basis. On the other hand, struggling but otherwise bankable small enterprises and small farmers, who need cheap loans the most, are the ones who have to pay the highest rates—if they can borrow from the banks at all. Most end up borrowing from informal lenders at much higher interest cost. But then we economists would say that all this is perfectly understandable; banks are simply acting "rationally." Left alone, banks would naturally prefer to deal with a smaller number of large borrowers, because they save on transactions costs. Thus, a large rich client can easily get a discount on the interest cost of borrowed money, no different from the way you can buy many things cheaper by the dozen at Divisoria or when you buy in bulk from Makro or Price Smart.

Rightly or wrongly, banks also tend to assume that a larger, richer client is a "safer" client, and that a small borrower is a greater credit risk. Thus, SMEs must struggle to put up collateral for their bank loans, while the big guys can borrow hundreds of millions on the strength of their name alone. Rational bank behavior again? I'd say not quite. The 1997-98 Asian financial crisis showed that a firm's bigness was no guarantee of its stability. In fact, the bigger firms who had the bigger dollar loans fell harder than the rest. The current move toward more consumer lending among the big banks is tantamount to going for larger numbers of small loans, a departure from the traditional preference for a few large ones. No reason, then, why Planters Bank shouldn't have much more company among its bigger competitors in catering to the needs of smaller businesses, who are now seen as the hope to get our economy out of the "jobless growth" syndrome.

Expensive water, poor education

Even on such a basic thing as water, a perverse reality lies in the way poor residents of depressed communities actually pay up to 20 times more per liter of water than Forbes Park residents do. And the latter have their cheap water piped up to their bedrooms, while the poor squatters must buy it in containers that they must carry back to their shanties. One of the reasons Manila Water has been so successful in turning a profit—and why its IPO has received such favorable response—is that the company consciously addressed this perversity by expanding water access to the tremendous market in the depressed communities. Not only do these residents now pay much less than they had been accustomed to for their water; they also have the increased convenience of getting the water piped into their homes, or at least much closer to them.

Education is yet another gap widener. The children of the well-to-do get the best quality education from expensive private schools, while poor children can only get mediocre if not downright substandard education from the public school system—if family economic circumstances permit them to attend school at all. As a result, the rich perpetuate their superior role in society while lack of quality education sinks the underprivileged further into perpetual poverty. Having been in high government office myself, I have always been struck at how people in high places in or out of government seem to be mostly related to one another by family affinity, or as former classmates in affluent schools like Ateneo, La Salle or even UP (which, while a public institution, many consider to be an "affluent" school as well). It often made me feel out of place, as I still often do, being an outsider to the small social circles that tend to dominate the power structures in our society. I remember feeling the same way during my graduate studies at Harvard, where the few other Filipinos in campus mostly had family names that dot the society pages back home.

Obscene VAT exemptions

Enter now the VAT law as it shapes up in Congress. In a naked display of the Golden Rule (the one that says, "He who has the gold makes all the rules," that is), we see Congress moving to exempt from VAT the importation or lease of aircraft, engines, equipment, and spare parts by airline companies. As if that were not enough, leases of property of airline companies are also being subjected to zero VAT rate. In the Senate, the existing 3-percent tax on international airline and shipping companies is being removed, and subjected instead to a zero VAT rate, which means they can further claim a refund on VAT paid on their inputs. And we thought the amendments were supposed to reduce exemptions to broaden the VAT net! I cannot see how this move can be justified as even remotely benefiting the poor. Didn't these same lawmakers just hand it to the principals of the "sin" products—who just so happen to own the dominant domestic airline as well? How then can we justify raising the VAT by 20 percent (i.e. from 10 percent to 12 percent) for everyone else if we eliminate it for a select rich few who were already paying it all these years anyway? Where else can we see the tax system used so blatantly as a glaring instrument for social injustice? If the perverse exercise of public policy can be as brazen and obscene as this, what hope is there for the country?

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

CALL CENTER FIRM

Nextel in backdoor listing talks

By Clarissa S. Batino

NEXT Mobile Inc. is set to acquire a listed company specializing in call center operations after the trunk radio operator's proposed share-swap deal with Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc. failed to materialize.

Among the listed firms, Easy Call Communications Philippines Inc. and Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp. are specializing in call center operations.

"Next Mobile is buying a listed firm so it could spin off its call center and online data applications," a well-placed source said.

The buy-in would likely serve as Next Mobile's backdoor listing, which it originally planned to do through Premiere or PEP.

PEP said Friday that an agreement signed in March 2004 related to its sale to Next Mobile owners and its subsequent acquisition of Next Mobile had lapsed and had not been extended.

The listed production company entered into a deal with five major shareholders of Next Mobile a year ago.

The deal provided that the five companies would acquire the listed production company by putting their assets into PEP in exchange for shares. In turn, PEP would own Next Mobile, which would have been the radio trunk operator's backdoor listing.

A source, however, said that the deal between PEP and Next Mobile had lapsed as early as October 2004.

"At that time, the stock market wasn't doing so well so we saw no need to renew the deal," said a source from Next Mobile.

The same source said that the share swap was doomed from the start given that PEP was classified as a media company and could not entertain foreign investors. Next Mobile is partly owned by foreign groups.

PEP forged the agreement last year with Top Mega Enterprises Ltd., Joycelink Holdings Ltd., Gamboa Holdings Inc., Emerald Investment Inc., and Foodcamp Industries and Marketing Inc. These five companies controlled by businessman Mel Velarde also own Next Mobile Inc.

Upon completion of the swap, PEP would have owned 97 percent of the outstanding capital stock of Next Mobile. In turn, the Next Mobile shareholders would have controlled 96.2 percent of the outstanding capital stock of the listed production company.

Fixed-income exchange debuts March 28

By Doris C. Dumlao

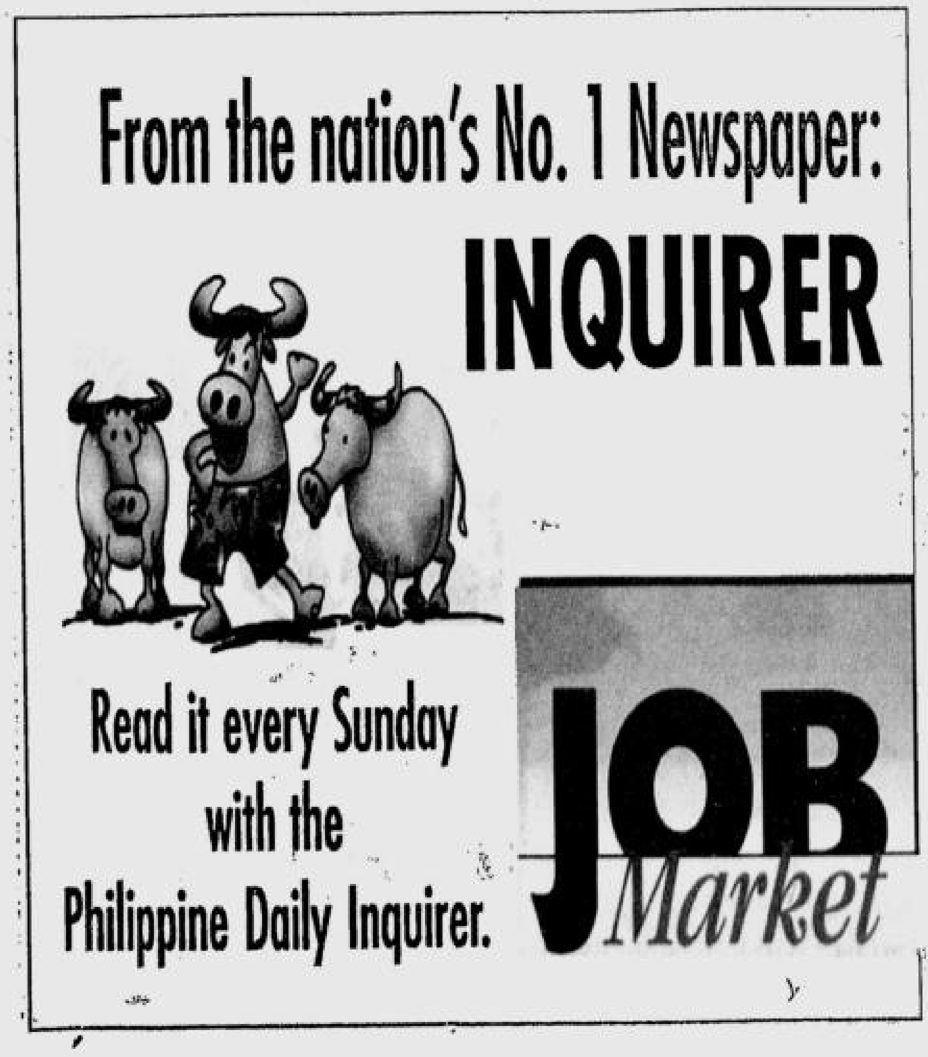
THE PHILIPPINES' first fixed income exchange—seen as a key measure in boosting the country's fledgling capital market—is set to debut this March 28 under the stewardship of Philippine Dealing System and Holdings Corp.

In a briefing Friday, PDS Group president Vicente Castillo said the holding company of the Bankers Association of the Philippines was likewise ready to go full-blast as an accredited third-party securities custodian through Philippine Deposit and Trust Co. (PDTC).

The new Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp. (PDEX), which has an existing paid-up capital of P450 million, is 38 percent owned by the BAP, 12.22 percent by the Philippine Stock Exchange and 10 percent each by technology and infrastructure providers Tata Consulting and Computershare. Other shareholders are San Miguel Corp. (5 percent), Philam Life (5 percent), Investment Houses Association of the Philippines (2.5 percent) and the Social Security System (2 percent).

But Castillo lamented the controversies hounding PDTC, especially accusations that this unit had no track record in handling securities.

"We have been a depository of equities since 1997, with a clearing and settlement daily volume of $781 million and we passed the rigid US SEC 17 f-5 requirement that was needed before any US pension fund can invest in any country," Castillo said.


From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
INQUIRER
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
JOB Market

5 mine . . .

From page B1

4,500 new jobs.

Investor interest in local mining projects perked up when the Supreme Court last December upheld the Mining Act of 1995, which allows full foreign ownership of companies engaged in large-scale exploration, development and use of mineral resources.

In a related development, DTI officials said the government was looking at farming out to private operators at least five foreclosed or abandoned mines held by the Privatization Management Office, with assets totaling P23.9 billion.

The mining concerns include those of Basay Mining Corp., Batong Buhay Gold Mines Inc., North Davao Mining Corp., Nonoc Mining and Industrial Corp., and Hercules Minerals and Oils Inc.

Officials said the government was exploring the possibility of creating one company per mining claim and then sub-contracting the development to foreign companies in order to attract large-scale mining contracts.

Last week, the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines said up to $555 million in additional mining investments were expected to flow in as the promotion of a second batch of 37 new and unexplored mining areas to foreign investors began.

CMP president Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez said in an interview the new areas were first promoted to junior mining firms in Canada during an investment mission in Toronto two weeks ago.

Romualdez said exploration activities needed between $10 million and $15 million per area.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 18, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.3	26,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29.5	29.5	28.5	28.5	709,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57	57	57	57	184,000
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50	50	48	48	190,600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.75	0.75	5,060,000
International Exch. Bank	19	19	18.75	18.75	540,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	37	37	36	37	695,900
Philippine National Bank	38.5	38.5	35	35	44,000
Philippine Trust Co.	29	29	29	29	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	32,500
Security Bank Corp.	31	31	29.5	29.5	522,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30.5	29.5	29.5	35,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	260	260	260	260	480
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.06	1.06	390,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	154	155	150	150	4,170
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1720	1730	1720	1730	1,640
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.5	49,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.24	1.26	5,582,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	910	910	905	905	15,010
Ipeople Inc.	5	5	4.95	5	35,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.055	0.055	5,600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	2,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.4	3.5	9,034,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1460	1460	1450	1455	75,940
Ivantage Corp.	0.76	0.79	0.76	0.76	3,210,000
Philweb Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.021	163,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	131,300
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	29.5	28.5	29	641,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.5	7.6	6.8	6.9	180,926,000
Petron Corp.	4.05	4.05	3.95	3.95	5,041,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.52	1.52	1.48	1.48	1,379,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	80,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	171,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	197,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.65	0.65	600,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.6	3.7	2,601,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	60,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	350,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.75	3.75	225,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	36	36	36	36	9,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	27.5	28	27.5	27.5	60,500
Pancake House Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.22	74,000
RFM Corp.	0.96	1	0.95	1	480,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	300,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	56	56	111,700
San Miguel Corp. B	83	83.5	81.5	82	87,000
Universal Robina Corp.	12	12	12	12	11,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	1,000,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	230,700,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	25,500,000
Ayala Corp.	8.2	8.2	7.9	7.9	2,840,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.61	0.62	770,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.1	4.95	5	582,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.049	0.0525	13,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.1	2.1	1,120,000
APC Group Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.42	3,020,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	63,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	770,000
Aries Prime Res. Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	25,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	40,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.8	0.81	0.79	0.81	140,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	25.5	25.5	24	24.5	27,200
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.185	880,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.14	1.16	31,447,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	400,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	5,210,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.5	0.5	0.44	0.45	1,650,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.5	3.5	16,206,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	2,457,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	10.25	10.25	9.9	10	1,364,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	59.5	59.5	55.5	55.5	1,264,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	6,300,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.78	1.8	610,000
Ionics Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	33,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.75	3.75	520,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.08	2.1	2.06	2.1	178,000
Medco Holdings	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	70,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	2,199,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	60,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	100,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.47	150,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.52	0.53	45,880,000
Polar Property Holdings	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.55	62,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.34	0.41	0.33	0.34	260,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.35	0.35	1,120,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	403,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.61	0.61	680,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.77	0.78	0.75	0.75	700,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	1,300,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.18	0.2	1,190,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	510,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	10,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.66	130,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	221,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.86	120,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	10,450,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.36	1.38	8,824,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1	1.02	5,335,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	7,192,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	3,310,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17	17	16	16	391,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.1	9.2	8.7	8.7	3,733,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	110,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	591,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	700,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.32	5,890,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.2	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.52	0.53	16,430,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.74	1.76	4,940,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	140,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	600,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.67	0.78	0.67	0.77	3,320,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.22	0.22	1,000,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.195	0.2	0.19	0.19	950,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	10,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	640,000
SM Development Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.74	1.74	481,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.4	8.4	8	8	7,171,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	160,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	84,500,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.1	6.1	5.8	5.9	177,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.2	33,000
Benguet Corp. B	15	15	15	15	200
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.38	9,940,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.43	0.43	0.4	0.41	7,430,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	68,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.025	0.025	152,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	1,458,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	1,344,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.48	1.48	1.42	1.42	3,750,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	42	42	35	36	2,643,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.32	0.32	0.29	0.29	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	4,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	3,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	27,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	13,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.2	0.2	12,580,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	510,000

CURRENCIES

March 16, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.747328301	1.000000	53.9120
Japan	Yen	0.00715	0.009567	0.5158
United Kingdom	Pound	1.438682	1.925100	103.7860
Hongkong	Dollar	0.095819	0.128215	6.9123
Switzerland	Franc	0.646254	0.864753	46.6206
Canada	Dollar	0.622411	0.832848	44.9005
Singapore	Dollar	0.46049	0.616181	33.2196
Australia	Dollar	0.592647	0.793021	42.7533
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.982409	2.652661	143.0103
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.199288	0.266667	14.3766
Brunei	Dollar	0.459075	0.614288	33.1175
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00008	0.000107	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.019413	0.025977	1.4005
UAE	Dirham	0.203482	0.272279	14.6791
Euro	Euro	1	1.338100	72.1396
Argentina	Peso	0.256154	0.342759	18.4788
Brazil	REAL	0.273196	0.365564	19.7083
Denmark	Kroner	0.134281	0.179682	9.6870
India	Rupee	0.01716	0.022962	1.2379
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.196692	0.263193	14.1893
Mexico	New Peso	0.066788	0.089369	4.8181
New Zealand	Dollar	0.554874	0.742611	40.0356
Norway	Kroner	0.122896	0.164447	8.8657
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012589	0.016846	0.9082
South Africa	Rand	0.122997	0.164582	8.8729
Korea	Won	0.000747	0.000999	0.0539
Sweden	Kroner	0.109922	0.147087	7.9298
Syria	Pound	0.014397	0.019264	1.0386
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024076	0.032216	1.7368
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000348	0.000466	0.0251

Economic injustice and VAT

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

THE PHILIPPINE tax system is unjust enough the way it is. But the way the VAT bill is shaping up in Congress, this prominent part of the Philippine tax system—which makes up about a fifth of all tax revenues—is about to further heighten the injustice that's already inherent in the revenue system. It seems that the more time our lawmakers take to work on revenue measures, the more ways they find to let some rich and powerful vested interests evade taxes legally, while the rest of us who pay the bulk of our taxes without the money ever passing our hands (because the taxes are already withheld at the source of our incomes) are made to shell out more and more. Life is indeed unfair—but one gets the feeling that life is even more unfair here in the Philippines.

Cheaper for the rich

Injustices exist in the overall economic system that keep widening the gaps between rich and poor—things I like to refer to as perverse realities. Consider bank loans, for example. Large borrowers who can well afford to pay regular market interest rates are the ones who get the cheapest terms (e.g. at "super prime rates" significantly lower than the market rates regular borrowers have to pay), and often on a "clean" or unsecured basis. On the other hand, struggling but otherwise bankable small enterprises and small farmers, who need cheap loans the most, are the ones who have to pay the highest rates—if they can borrow from the banks at all. Most end up borrowing from informal lenders at much higher interest cost. But then we economists would say that all this is perfectly understandable; banks are simply acting "rationally." Left alone, banks would naturally prefer to deal with a smaller number of large borrowers, because they save on transactions costs. Thus, a large rich client can easily get a discount on the interest cost of borrowed money, no different from the way you can buy many things cheaper by the dozen at Divisoria or when you buy in bulk from Makro or Price Smart.

Rightly or wrongly, banks also tend to assume that a larger, richer client is a "safer" client, and that a small borrower is a greater credit risk. Thus, SMEs must struggle to put up collateral for their bank loans, while the big guys can borrow hundreds of millions on the strength of their name alone. Rational bank behavior again? I'd say not quite. The 1997-98 Asian financial crisis showed that a firm's bigness was no guarantee of its stability. In fact, the bigger firms who had the bigger dollar loans fell harder than the rest. The current move toward more consumer lending among the big banks is tantamount to going for larger numbers of small loans, a departure from the traditional preference for a few large ones. No reason, then, why Planters Bank shouldn't have much more company among its bigger competitors in catering to the needs of smaller businesses, who are now seen as the hope to get our economy out of the "jobless growth" syndrome.

Expensive water, poor education

Even on such a basic thing as water, a perverse reality lies in the way poor residents of depressed communities actually pay up to 20 times more per liter of water than Forbes Park residents do. And the latter have their cheap water piped up to their bedrooms, while the poor squatters must buy it in containers that they must carry back to their shanties. One of the reasons Manila Water has been so successful in turning a profit—and why its IPO has received such favorable response—is that the company consciously addressed this perversity by expanding water access to the tremendous market in the depressed communities. Not only do these residents now pay much less than they had been accustomed to for their water; they also have the increased convenience of getting the water piped into their homes, or at least much closer to them.

Education is yet another gap widener. The children of the well-to-do get the best quality education from expensive private schools, while poor children can only get mediocre if not downright substandard education from the public school system—if family economic circumstances permit them to attend school at all. As a result, the rich perpetuate their superior role in society while lack of quality education sinks the underprivileged further into perpetual poverty. Having been in high government office myself, I have always been struck at how people in high places in or out of government seem to be mostly related to one another by family affinity, or as former classmates in affluent schools like Ateneo, La Salle or even UP (which, while a public institution, many consider to be an "affluent" school as well). It often made me feel out of place, as I still often do, being an outsider to the small social circles that tend to dominate the power structures in our society. I remember feeling the same way during my graduate studies at Harvard, where the few other Filipinos in campus mostly had family names that dot the society pages back home.

Obscene VAT exemptions

Enter now the VAT law as it shapes up in Congress. In a naked display of the Golden Rule (the one that says, "He who has the gold makes all the rules," that is), we see Congress moving to exempt from VAT the importation or lease of aircraft, engines, equipment, and spare parts by airline companies. As if that were not enough, leases of property of airline companies are also being subjected to zero VAT rate. In the Senate, the existing 3-percent tax on international airline and shipping companies is being removed, and subjected instead to a zero VAT rate, which means they can further claim a refund on VAT paid on their inputs. And we thought the amendments were supposed to reduce exemptions to broaden the VAT net! I cannot see how this move can be justified as even remotely benefiting the poor. Didn't these same lawmakers just hand it to the principals of the "sin" products—who just so happen to own the dominant domestic airline as well? How then can we justify raising the VAT by 20 percent (i.e. from 10 percent to 12 percent) for everyone else if we eliminate it for a select rich few who were already paying it all these years anyway? Where else can we see the tax system used so blatantly as a glaring instrument for social injustice? If the perverse exercise of public policy can be as brazen and obscene as this, what hope is there for the country?

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

CALL CENTER FIRM

Nextel in backdoor listing talks

By Clarissa S. Batino

NEXT Mobile Inc. is set to acquire a listed company specializing in call center operations after the trunk radio operator's proposed share-swap deal with Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc. failed to materialize.

Among the listed firms, Easy Call Communications Philippines Inc. and Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp. are specializing in call center operations.

"Next Mobile is buying a listed firm so it could spin off its call center and online data applications," a well-placed source said.

The buy-in would likely serve as Next Mobile's backdoor listing, which it originally planned to do through Premiere or PEP.

PEP said Friday that an agreement signed in March 2004 related to its sale to Next Mobile owners and its subsequent acquisition of Next Mobile had lapsed and had not been extended.

The listed production company entered into a deal with five major shareholders of Next Mobile a year ago.

The deal provided that the five companies would acquire the listed production company by putting their assets into PEP in exchange for shares. In turn, PEP would own Next Mobile, which would have been the radio trunk operator's backdoor listing.

A source, however, said that the deal between PEP and Next Mobile had lapsed as early as October 2004.

"At that time, the stock market wasn't doing so well so we saw no need to renew the deal," said a source from Next Mobile.

The same source said that the share swap was doomed from the start given that PEP was classified as a media company and could not entertain foreign investors. Next Mobile is partly owned by foreign groups.

PEP forged the agreement last year with Top Mega Enterprises Ltd., Joycelink Holdings Ltd., Gamboa Holdings Inc., Emerald Investment Inc., and Foodcamp Industries and Marketing Inc. These five companies controlled by businessman Mel Velarde also own Next Mobile Inc.

Upon completion of the swap, PEP would have owned 97 percent of the outstanding capital stock of Next Mobile. In turn, the Next Mobile shareholders would have controlled 96.2 percent of the outstanding capital stock of the listed production company.

Fixed-income exchange debuts March 28

By Doris C. Dumlao

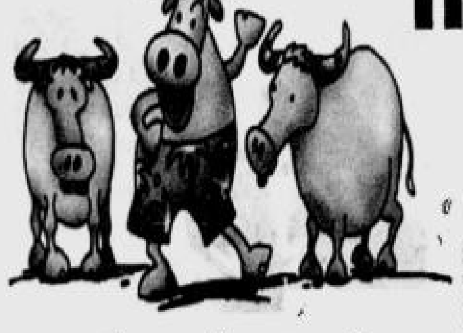
THE PHILIPPINES' first fixed income exchange—seen as a key measure in boosting the country's fledgling capital market—is set to debut this March 28 under the stewardship of Philippine Dealing System and Holdings Corp.

In a briefing Friday, PDS Group president Vicente Castillo said the holding company of the Bankers Association of the Philippines was likewise ready to go full-blast as an accredited third-party securities custodian through Philippine Deposit and Trust Co. (PDTC).

The new Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp. (PDEX), which has an existing paid-up capital of P450 million, is 38 percent owned by the BAP, 12.22 percent by the Philippine Stock Exchange and 10 percent each by technology and infrastructure providers Tata Consulting and Computershare. Other shareholders are San Miguel Corp. (5 percent), Philam Life (5 percent), Investment Houses Association of the Philippines (2.5 percent) and the Social Security System (2 percent).

But Castillo lamented the controversies hounding PDTC, especially accusations that this unit had no track record in handling securities.

"We have been a depository of equities since 1997, with a clearing and settlement daily volume of $781 million and we passed the rigid US SEC 17 f-5 requirement that was needed before any US pension fund can invest in any country," Castillo said.



From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:
INQUIRER
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
JOB Market

---

5 mine . . .

From page B1

4,500 new jobs.

Investor interest in local mining projects perked up when the Supreme Court last December upheld the Mining Act of 1995, which allows full foreign ownership of companies engaged in large-scale exploration, development and use of mineral resources.

In a related development, DTI officials said the government was looking at farming out to private operators at least five foreclosed or abandoned mines held by the Privatization Management Office, with assets totaling P23.9 billion.

The mining concerns include those of Basay Mining Corp., Batong Buhay Gold Mines Inc., North Davao Mining Corp., Nonoc Mining and Industrial Corp., and Hercules Minerals and Oils Inc.

Officials said the government was exploring the possibility of creating one company per mining claim and then sub-contracting the development to foreign companies in order to attract large-scale mining contracts.

Last week, the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines said up to $555 million in additional mining investments were expected to flow in as the promotion of a second batch of 37 new and unexplored mining areas to foreign investors began.

CMP president Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez said in an interview the new areas were first promoted to junior mining firms in Canada during an investment mission in Toronto two weeks ago.

Romualdez said exploration activities needed between $10 million and $15 million per area.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 18, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.3	26,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29.5	29.5	28.5	28.5	769,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57	57	57	57	184,000
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50	50	48	48	190,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.75	0.75	5,060,000
International Exch. Bank	19	19	18.75	18.75	540,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	37	37	36	37	695,900
Philippine National Bank	38.5	38.5	35	35	44,000
Philippine Trust Co.	29	29	29	29	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	32,500
Security Bank Corp.	31	31	29.5	29.5	522,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30.5	29.5	29.5	35,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	260	260	260	260	480
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.06	1.06	390,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	154	155	150	150	4,170
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1720	1730	1720	1730	1,640
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.5	49,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.24	1.26	5,582,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	910	910	905	905	15,010
Ipeople Inc.	5	5	4.95	5	35,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.055	0.055	5,600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	2,600,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.4	3.5	9,034,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1460	1460	1450	1455	75,940
Ivantage Corp.	0.76	0.79	0.76	0.76	3,210,000
Philweb Corp.	0.022	0.022	0.02	0.021	163,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	131,300
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	29.5	28.5	29	641,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.5	7.6	6.8	6.9	180,926,000
Petron Corp.	4.05	4.05	3.95	3.95	5,041,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.52	1.52	1.48	1.48	1,379,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	80,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	171,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.1	197,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.65	0.65	600,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.6	3.7	2,601,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	60,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	350,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.75	3.75	225,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	36	36	36	36	9,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	27.5	28	27.5	27.5	60,500
Pancake House Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.22	74,000
RFM Corp.	0.96	1	0.95	1	480,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	300,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	56	56	111,700
San Miguel Corp. B	83	83.5	81.5	82	87,000
Universal Robina Corp.	12	12	12	12	11,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	1,000,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	230,700,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	25,500,000
Ayala Corp.	8.2	8.2	7.9	7.9	2,840,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.61	0.62	770,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.1	4.95	5	582,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.049	0.0525	13,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.1	2.1	1,120,000
APC Group Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.42	3,020,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	63,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	770,000
Aries Prime Res. Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	25,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	40,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.8	0.81	0.79	0.81	140,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	25.5	25.5	24	24.5	27,200
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.185	880,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.14	1.16	31,447,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	400,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	6,210,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.5	0.5	0.44	0.45	1,650,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.5	3.5	16,206,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	2,457,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	10.25	10.25	9.9	10	1,364,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	59.5	59.5	55.5	55.5	1,264,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	6,300,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.78	1.8	610,000
Ionics Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	33,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.75	3.75	520,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.08	2.1	2.06	2.1	178,000
Medco Holdings	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	70,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	2,199,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	60,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	100,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.45	0.47	0.45	0.47	150,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.52	0.53	45,880,000
Polar Property Holdings	2.55	2.55	2.5	2.55	62,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.34	0.41	0.33	0.34	260,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.35	0.35	1,120,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	403,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.61	0.61	680,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.77	0.78	0.75	0.75	700,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	1,300,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.18	0.2	1,190,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	510,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	10,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.66	130,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	221,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.86	120,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	10,450,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.36	1.38	8,824,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1	1.02	5,335,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	7,192,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	3,310,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17	17	16	16	391,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.1	9.2	8.7	8.7	3,733,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	110,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	591,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	700,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.32	5,890,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.2	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.52	0.53	16,430,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.74	1.76	4,940,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	140,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	600,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.67	0.78	0.67	0.77	3,320,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.22	0.22	1,000,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.195	0.2	0.19	0.19	950,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	10,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	640,000
SM Development Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.74	1.74	481,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.4	8.4	8	8	7,171,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	160,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	84,500,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.1	6.1	5.8	5.9	177,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.2	33,000
Benguet Corp. B	15	15	15	15	200
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.38	9,940,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.43	0.43	0.4	0.41	7,430,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.018	66,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.025	0.025	152,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	1,458,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	1,344,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.48	1.48	1.42	1.42	3,750,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	42	42	35	36	2,643,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.32	0.32	0.29	0.29	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	4,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	3,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	7,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	27,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	13,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.2	0.2	12,580,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	510,000

CURRENCIES

March 18, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.747328301	1.000000	53.9120
Japan	Yen	0.00715	0.009567	0.5158
United Kingdom	Pound	1.438682	1.925100	103.7860
Hongkong	Dollar	0.095819	0.128215	6.9123
Switzerland	Franc	0.646254	0.864753	46.6206
Canada	Dollar	0.622411	0.832848	44.9005
Singapore	Dollar	0.46049	0.616181	33.2196
Australia	Dollar	0.592647	0.793021	42.7533
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.982409	2.652661	143.0103
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.199288	0.266667	14.3766
Brunei	Dollar	0.459075	0.614288	33.1175
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00008	0.000107	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.019413	0.025977	1.4005
UAE	Dirham	0.203482	0.272279	14.6791
Euro	Euro	1	1.338100	72.1396
Argentina	Peso	0.256154	0.342759	18.4788
Brazil	REAL	0.273196	0.365564	19.7083
Denmark	Kroner	0.134281	0.179682	9.6870
India	Rupee	0.01716	0.022962	1.2379
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.196692	0.263193	14.1893
Mexico	New Peso	0.066788	0.089369	4.8181
New Zealand	Dollar	0.554974	0.742611	40.0356
Norway	Kroner	0.122896	0.164447	8.8657
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012589	0.016846	0.9082
South Africa	Rand	0.122997	0.164582	8.8729
Korea	Won	0.000747	0.000999	0.0539
Sweden	Kroner	0.109922	0.147087	7.9298
Syria	Pound	0.014397	0.019264	1.0386
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024076	0.032216	1.7368
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000348	0.000466	0.0251

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

InfoTech

E-mail: pr_info_tech@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Leo Magno
Text us your feedback: inquirer it name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Sun shows vision of future desktop interface

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

HOW will the future desktop computer look like? Will it still be contained in a computer display or will it be composed of holograms?

Technology vendor Sun Microsystems however has some clever ideas about how a future desktop computer would look like in the next, say, three years.

In Project Looking Glass, Sun gave regional media a glimpse of a "Windows"-based desktop that mimics a three-dimensional environment, similar to how we perceive the real world.

"What if windows were translucent so that you could see the multiple windows you're working on at the same time? What if you could tack a note right on the Web page you're viewing? What if your CD or movie database became a 3D jukebox, where titles were joined with images to make finding what you want easier than ever?"

These are the questions posed by Project Looking Glass.

Project Looking Glass is among the proofs-of-concept displayed at the Sun iForce Solutions Center Asia South in Singapore. Since the project consists mainly of prototypes, Sun has no plans yet to commercialize it.

Sun officials in fact revealed that Project Looking Glass has already been given to the open source community.

Project Looking Glass was developed about a year ago. It is the latest innovation to come out of the group's Advanced Software Technology Team. It is mainly an academic exercise that aims to answer the "what-ifs" of future desktop interfaces. It was developed using Java technology and brings 3D windowing capabilities to the desktop, offering richer user experience for work and play. What caught this reporter's eye was the feature that allows users to have a 360-degree view of a desktop. So the experience is similar to playing a three-dimensional first-person shooter game, in which you can scan a digital environment from practically all angles.

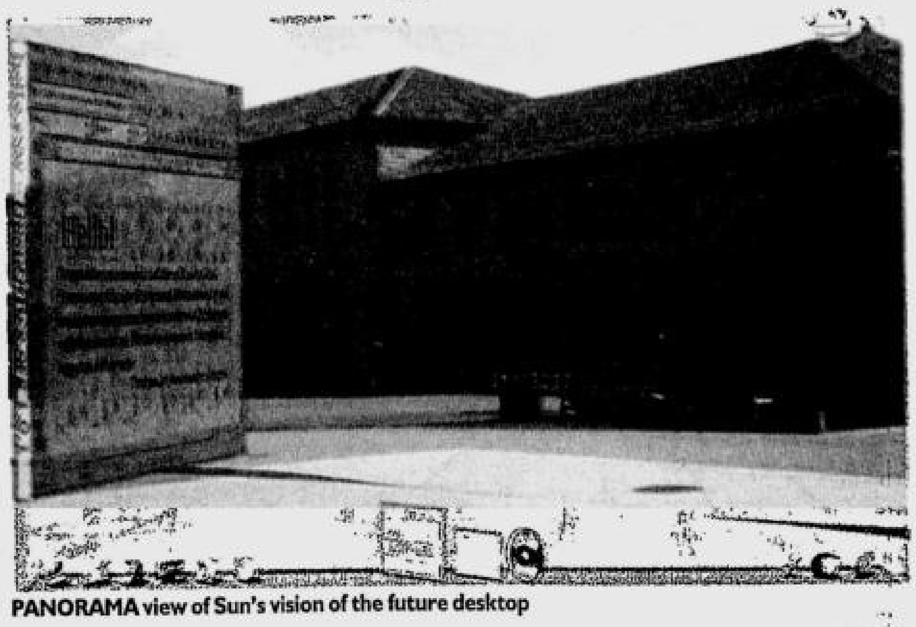
But Sun says Project Looking Glass is not only about looks.

"It's about creating an engaging user experience, one that can make communications and collaboration even easier. In the prototype, windows displaying applications are no longer stacked upon each other with flat icons and buttons to represent them; they are viewed in a 3D environment and manipulated as 3D objects. We are moving beyond the boundaries of old environments to revolutionize the use of the desktop," Sun said.

Project Looking Glass is being developed to work with the Solaris and Linux desktop environments using Java technology.

When completed, the future desktop will work alongside applications designed for a 2D window system, without application modifications.

Sun also offers a developer release enabling software developers to get involved in the open source project through http://lg3d.dev.java.net.



PANORAMA view of Sun's vision of the future desktop

ERP firm aims at SMB market

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

ENTERPRISE resource planning (ERP) software firm QAD is expanding its business by partnering with local distributor Information Managers Inc.

Infoman will be QAD's second distributor in the Philippines after Ayala Systems Technology Inc. (ASTI), which has been distributing QAD applications for 10 years.

While ASTI aims at large manufacturing enterprises, Infoman will go for mid-size and small- to medium-scale businesses in the Philippines.

QAD South Asia Country Manager Yong Foo Chuen said ASTI would continue maintaining its existing customers which are mostly large corporations. Infoman is expected to bring in new clients to QAD from the mid-size corporations and SMBs.

Chuen said they expect to grow their business from 15 to about 20 percent annually with new markets in mid-size and SMBs that make up a larger portion of local industry than the larger, mostly multinational enterprises.

Chuen noted that many existing ERP implementations in the Philippines are underutilized or have not been upgraded, particularly due to high cost of maintenance and upgrading. He said this poses a challenge to smaller industries that are not encouraged by unsatisfactory results stemming from hasty ERP implementation.

"Two factors surround ERP implementation and these are cost benefit and ease of implementation. Either way, companies want to make sure that their ERP implementation will be used for a long time," Chuen said.

Infoman CEO Bernard Yu said that under the partnership with QAD, the mid-size and SMB enterprises they would be focusing on are in three vertical industries: consumer products, manufacturing, and food and beverage.

"These are industries that want to implement ERP systems but are not really familiar with [ERP] and don't know how to properly implement it. What I'm hoping [for] is to make the market aware [of] the ins and outs of ERP and offer them best practices, not just solutions," Yu said.

A veteran of ERP marketing, Yu was country manager for Oracle for nearly 11 years. He noted that Infoman would also be aiming for markets not usually served by Oracle.

"We'll be introducing more services and solutions to the mid-size and SMB market in the next few months," Yu promised.

TYAN
Stable and reliable servers. When your business demands 24/7 uptime. www.tyan.com

SERVER BARBONES
OPTIMUM SERVER PROMO!

Get this Apple iPod shuffle (512Mb) MP3 player FOR FREE when you purchase any of our server barebones with an AMD Opteron™ processor!

*The Apple iPod shuffle is slated to be available locally come April 2005.
Promo period is from March 7 to April 15, 2005 only.

PER DTI NCR PERMIT # 1083 SERIES OF 2005.

Tränsport GX28
(B2881S4H)

Processor:	Up to two 64-bit AMD Opteron 250
Motherboard	Tyan S2881G2NR AMD 8131/8111 Chipset
Memory:	16GB Registered w/ECC Max
Storage:	4-port SATA controller Raid 0.1 & 0+1 capable
SRP**	Php 158,125.00

THESE TYAN SERVER BAREBONES ARE POWERED BY:

** SRP quoted current as of 22Feb2005. Price quoted includes TYAN serverboard, one (1) AMD Opteron™ Model 242 (1.6 GHz) processor, and chassis only

PCTrends
See posters or call for details.
Tel. Nos. 7276449 | 7276217 | 7276142 Fax: 7276241
Email us at: sales@pctrends.com.ph
Website: www.pctrends.com.ph

hp

Trade in your old fax machine and get an HP LaserJet 3015 All-in-One (laser printer, copier, scanner & fax machine) for only P15,000.

Trade in your fax machine (old or new, in either working or non-working condition, of any brand) from February 15 to April 30, 2005, add P15,000 and you'll get a brand new HP LaserJet 3015 All-in-One. The compact business machine is a laser printer, copier, scanner & fax machine. With the HP LaserJet 3015 All-in-One, you get quick prints, faxes are sent quickly and greater accuracy when scanning text. With Instant-on Technology your print job starts to print instantly even in powersave mode, delivering your first page in less than10 seconds, no time wasted, you're instantly productive. The HP LaserJet 3015 All-in-One comes with 32 MB of RAM to easily handle complex jobs plus an additional 2 MB memory dedicated to storing important fax documents. So trade in your fax machines and get the HP LaserJet 3015 All-in-One today!

HP LASERJET 3015
ALL-IN-ONE
Special Trade in price!
P15,000

- Print and copy at 15 pages per minute
- 32MB Memory
- 1200 dpi effective output resolution
- 9600 x 9600 dpi enhanced scan resolution
- Fax speed 33.6kbps
- Fax speed dial: 120 numbers
- Fax memory 110-page, 2MB
- USB & Parallel Ports
- 2 years warranty

Save P5,599*
When you trade in your fax machine (in any condition, of any brand) for an HP LaserJet 3015 All-in-One from February 15 to April 30, 2005

A-rating for service and reliability for 12 consecutive years by PC Magazine, August 2003

HP is No. 1^ in Monochrome Laser MFP (Printer Based) in Asia/Pacific (excluding Japan)

With certified service and genuine parts, HP Care Pack adds more value to your warranty. Insist on one today.

GET MORE EXPERTISE, TECHNOLOGY AND SUPPORT WITH HP'S SMART OFFICE SOLUTIONS

Trade in your fax machine and experience the HP LaserJet 3015 All-in-One for only P15,000.
Offer ends April 30, 2005 so act now

CALL (632) 867-3557
Toll-free 1-800-1441-6688
EMAIL ph.contact@hp.com
VISIT your local hp reseller

Dial HP print cartridges 1-800-1441-6688 doorstep delivery

hp invent

PARTICIPATING RESELLERS Accent Micro / PC Live 634-2417; 026 5688 • CT Link 803-0515 • Infoworx 897-6147, 413-3838, 047 2249237, 045 8886281 • Silicon Valley 633-1723 / 24, 812-6734 • TCA - The Computer Authority 752-8821, 050-3709

©2005 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. *HP LaserJet 3015 All-in-One SRP is P20,599. ^Source: IDC Asia/Pacific Quarterly MFP Tracker, 3Q 2004. The HP Contact Center is available Mondays thru Fridays 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0813, Series of 2005

It just keeps getting better and better.

Introducing, InFocus X2 - the next level to the phenomenal X1!

InFocus X2, the new and improved dual-duty digital projector that shines during the workday, and on into an entertaining evening. All you'll ever need for work and beyond packed in a powerful package guaranteed to give you twice the edge over your presentations even as it doubles the excitement of your home entertainment.

InFocus X2

DLP™ Technology • 1600 max ANSI lumens
2000:1 Contrast Ratio • 3000 Lamp Hours

For a free demo of this and/or other models, call 723-0601 or visit www.infocus.com

InFocus®
The Worldwide Leader in Digital Projection

Exclusively distributed by:
better solutions
AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
455 Gen. Bautista St., San Juan, Metro Manila
url: www.ati.com.ph e-mail: inquire@ati.com.ph
Fax: 723-7051

InFocus and X2 are registered trademarks of InFocus Corporation. DLP™ is a trademark of Texas Instruments.

Gov't plans to borrow against OFW remittances

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to adopt the Mexican tack of raising cheaper funds by borrowing against the billions of dollars worth of remittances from migrant workers.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, who is formulating new strategies to lower the public sector's borrowing and debt servicing costs, is also keen on pushing for the issuance of euro-denominated bonds in the global market.

At the sidelines of a testimonial dinner hosted by the Bosconian International Chamber of Commerce for incoming Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. Friday night, Purisima said he was looking at seven- to five-year structured financing through the securitization of OFW (overseas Filipino workers) remittances.

The Philippines is the world's third biggest recipient of migrant fund transfers, next to India and Mexico. These remittances hit an all-time high of $8.5 billion at end-2004 or 11.8 percent better than a year ago.

"Mexico has done it, it borrowed against inflows of migrant remittances. If you do that, you can borrow at lower rates," Purisima said.

Purisima said the banks that would 'capture or buy' the OFW remittances could raise funds against these inflows and then sell the proceeds to the government.

"There are several products in that area that are being shown to us right now," he said.

Some European investment banks had already tried this asset securitization scheme, involving lending money to banks in Mexico based on the expected inflow of funds from remittances.

In August 1996, SBC Warburg Inc. sold $100 million in securities to Banco Internacional in Mexico. In 1995, JP Morgan Securities Inc. and Merrill Lynch & Company sold $206.5 million in bonds to Banco Nacional de Mexico.

These Latin American transactions allowed the banks to issue secured bonds before they actually had the money, based on the expected amount of remittances that would enter the system through wire transfers, and then reinvest the money they received.

Purisima said the government was also considering diversifying its credit risk by increasing the euro-denominated borrowings.

He noted that 50 percent of the government's debt was currently denominated in US dollars, about 30 percent in Japanese yen and the balance in euros.

"If you look at interest rates in Europe, they are lower. In fact, our spread there is probably 50-75 basis points lower. It's another possibility of lowering our cost but that's something that we're still reviewing," he said.

Purisima said the finance department's view was that the euro's appreciation would not likely be sustained because from a trade standpoint, a stronger currency would make European exports less competitive in the long run.

"Most likely, the euro will depreciate so if we borrow in euros now, we will pay cheaper in euros in the future," he said.

He said this strategy was not speculative as the current borrowing mix, which heavily leaned on the US dollar, already reflected the government's position.

"Maybe we should do some realignment," he said.

SPI spending ₱3B to expand operations

CEBU—SPI Technologies Inc., one of the world's leading business process outsourcing service providers, is embarking on a P3-billion expansion program this year.

SPI president and CEO Ernest Cu said the company aimed to further extend its service lines and production capabilities through organic growth and mergers and acquisitions in the United States and Asia.

Cu announced SPI's expansion plan as the company formally inaugurated its medical transcription facility in Cebu. The new center is located at the Asiatown IT Park and has a capacity for over 500 employees.

Last week, SPI signed an agreement to buy the medical transcription business of India-based KG Information Services Private Limited (KGMT) which has a capacity for 800 staff. The KGMT facility is located in Coimbatore, the second largest city in South India, and the education center of the region.

Founded in the Philippines in 1980, SPI has evolved into a multi-country outsourcing provider with more than 6,500 employees in 24 locations across the US, Europe and Asia. In the Philippines, SPI employs 4,000 staff, which represents approximately 65 percent of its global workforce.

SPI is growing rapidly across all of its target markets. In publishing, SPI just expanded its Dumaguete center to accommodate an additional 450 staff, all focused on delivering journal and content solutions to the scientific, scholarly, technical and medical global publishing community. In financial services, SPI recently opened a 43,000-square foot production facility in Juarez, Mexico, geared towards providing transaction processing services for banks, insurance companies and other organizations with high volume requirements. In legal and litigation support, SPI acquired Oakton Virginia-based i-Base Data Services, the leading online coding company in the US. The acquisition is consistent with SPI's strategy to provide one-stop, global services in litigation coding, document production, electronic data discovery, electronic due diligence, and consulting services to law firms, corporate counsel and government agencies.

PGMA VISITS NAIA TERMINAL 3
President Arroyo receives a warm welcome during her first visit to the soon-to-be-opened Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3. With a passenger capacity of around 13 million a year, the world-class facility is nearly three times larger than the present international airport. With the President during her visit were (from left) Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Vice President Noli de Castro, Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) Deputy General Manager Angel Atutubo, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and MIAA GM Alfonso Cusi.

PDIC seeks ₱50-B hike in reserves

THE PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corp. has mapped out a strategy to boost its reserves by at least P50 billion, which will improve its capital adequacy amid the recent spate of costly bank failures.

PDIC president Ricardo Tan said the insurer was putting in place new measures to improve its fund management, saying its current deposit insurance fund of P40 billion was insufficient to cover long-term risk probabilities.

"Based on our estimates, we should be at P90 billion. If you are going to look at our capital adequacy, we will be quite deficient," Tan told reporters.

He said the closure of seven thrift and rural banks so far this year was "no joke" as it had resulted in costly settlements even if these were mostly small lenders.

He said these cases affected PDIC's fund since all deposits were insured.

"For example, the two rural banks [closed by the Monetary Board] in Bicol, the insured deposits amounted to half a billion pesos," Tan said.

Last year, Congress raised the maximum deposit insurance coverage to P250,000 from P100,000. However, it did not allow the PDIC to correspondingly hike the premium collected from banks which was currently pegged at 20 basis points of 1 percent of deposits.

He said the PDIC was hoping to run after the assets of the banks being shut down, but most of the capital was impaired resulting in small net asset valuation. *Doris C. Dumlao*

G & W clubshares
SEC License Broker No.: A-17597
FREE PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE
As of March 21, 2005
SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,150,000/1,200,000*	-
Alta Vista A/B*	-	180,000/220,000*
Baguio Country Club	Pls. Call	-
Calatagan Golf	50,000	-
Camp John Hay	150,000	-
Canyon Woods	140,000	-
Capitol Hills	110,000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Celebrity Sports	180,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	Pls. Call	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	210,000/290,000*/Pls. Call**	-
Eastridge A/B*	130,000*	85,000*
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	130,000/Pls. Call*	110,000/180,000*
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	11,500,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	-
Manila Polo	Pls. Call	2,050,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	Pls. Call*	350,000/870,000*
Manila Yacht Club	-	250,000
Makati Sports Club	Pls. Call	180,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	150,000/200,000*	110,000
Mimosa C2/C3*	220,000	280,000*
Mimosa Golf Ind.	180,000	130,000
Mt. Malarayat A/B*	190,000	160,000/200,000*
Orchard A/B*/C**	280,000*	150,000
Puerto Azul	80,000	-
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	130,000	180,000**
Rockwell Leisure Club	280,000	230,000
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/110,000*/180,000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,300,000/1,600,000*	Pls. Call
The Palms Country Club	850,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	Pls Call	380,000
Tagaytay Highlands	Pls. Call	-
Tagaytay Midlands	-	670,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	130,000	-
Valley Golf	280,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	Pls. Call

Tel. 7723246-49/8504151-52/8426731
8092038/(0917)3287789
E-mail:gwclubshares@pacific.net.ph

GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of March 21, 2005

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,150,000	1,050,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,200,000	-
Baguio Country Club	Please Call	500,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Camp John Hay	175,000	-
Canlubang	-	500,000
Canyon Woods	125,000	-
Capitol Hills	100,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,400,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	80,000
Club Filipino	150,000	100,000
Eagleridge "A"	200,000	190,000
Eagleridge "B"	290,000	270,000
Eagleridge "C"	300,000	-
Fairways "C3"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "A"	160,000	115,000
Forest Hills "B"	180,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	100,000	170,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	200,000	190,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,700,000	Please Call
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,300,000
Manila Polo	2,150,000	2,050,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	400,000	350,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	680,000
Manila Yacht Club	300,000	250,000
Metroclub "A"	120,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	160,000	120,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	350,000	270,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	190,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	300,000	160,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	180,000	150,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	320,000	300,000
Quezon City Sports Club	160,000	140,000
Rockwell	Please Call	-
Spa & Lodge	650,000	650,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,000,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,600,000	1,400,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	170,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	100,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	380,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	750,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	660,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	100,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	300,000	230,000
Wack Wack Golf Club	-	6,000,000

*PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

For more information, please call:
Tel.no 840-1761 / Fax 894-3021 / Mobile 0927-8755873
or e-mail at ggashare@mozcom.com
Penthouse, Pacific Star Bldg. Sen Gil Puyat cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

CLUB SHARES BY CREDIT CARD!!!
You may now charge your purchase or lease of clubshares using your credit card
Great deals for deferred payment transaction with major accredited cardholders
For inquiries, call our hotline 751-GOLF / trunk line 840-1761, or log on to
www.ggaclubshares.com for more details

Gov't won't use GFI funds to maintain San Miguel stake

THE GOVERNMENT has ruled out borrowing from government financial institutions if only to prevent the dilution of a 41-percent stake in San Miguel Corp.

It is also uncertain on whether the proposed assignment of subscription rights to an interested party could work. The deadline for the SMC stock rights offering was set for March 31.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima told reporters Friday night that the Presidential Commission on Good Government, which votes on the 27- percent stake held by the Coconut Investment Industry Fund (CIIF) in SMC, was not keen on tapping GFIs to maintain the level of its stake.

"Well, it [rights to the shares] can always be assigned, but they [assignee] will have to look at it on a commercial basis," Purisima said.

"As you know, there's a carrying cost and there's a chance that if it can go up the price can also go down, so there's nothing sure in this world," he said.

CIIF is the fund which holds in trust for coconut farmers the stake in SMC that was in turn sequestered by the PCGG after the ouster of the Marcos regime.

The finance chief said GFIs that were keen on helping either by lending or buying the shares would have to take the initiative on their own and evaluate their own risks.

"If someone will buy my rights, I'll sell my rights but I don't know if there are takers," he said.

"They will have to look at it as an investment," he said.

The state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines has offered to help the government keep its current stake in SMC either by lending or even by buying the shares through an assignment of rights for as long as there is an exit strategy. *Doris C. Dumlao*

NTC urged to penalize cable firm for piracy

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MOTION Pictures Association, a global group representing the American film industry, has asked the National Telecommunications Commission to penalize Destiny Cable Inc. for piracy.

"The Motion Pictures Association filed a case with us against Destiny. They want us to impose administrative sanctions," NTC Chair Ronald Solis told reporters.

Solis said the movie association complained that the local cable operator had been airing movies not covered by any commercial agreement.

But the NTC chief said it would have to ask the court whether the commission has the jurisdiction to decide on cases involving violations of intellectual property rights.

"We have to wait for the court to decide whether it is us or the IPO [Intellectual Property Office] that should handle the complaint," Solis said.

"The NTC has an understanding with the IPO to assist in the enforcement of the IPR laws here. But since cable is the medium of piracy in this case, we are asserting our jurisdiction," the NTC chief explained.

On meddlesome priests and gullible nuns—Part 2

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

REV. SALVADOR Eduarte, associate pastor in the United Church of Christ in San Nicolas, Pangasinan, in a letter ran March 9, raised four issues against my Jan. 17 column.

1. Eduarte asks, "If God created our mineral wealth for the good of the entire Filipino people, why are foreigners invited to invest here and not the Filipinos first? Why do we need foreign capital in order to tap these resources? Don't we have Filipinos who have enough wealth and capital, and also modern technology?"

Foreigners were not invited into large-scale mining first and Filipinos second. By law, anyone, Filipino or foreigner, with financial and technical capability may enter into a Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) with the government.

Local technical capability is abundant. There are more than enough Filipino geologists, engineers, metallurgists, chemists and miners.

Financial capability is a different matter altogether. Large-scale mining is an extremely expensive enterprise. I know a company that will soon mount a three-month exploratory drilling program costing P600 million. If the ore body turns to be large enough and of commercial grade (anybody around willing to take this bet?), the gold/copper mill will be operational in two years at the estimated cost of as much as P25 billion.

A new mining company can probably raise this kind of money by selling its shares at the local stock exchanges. But, because of a rule of the Board of Investments, our exchanges cannot trade the shares until the company has been operating for at least three years (scrapping this rule is under study). But the shares can be traded straightaway in Toronto, Sidney and London. If the company strikes it rich, none of the bonanza will go to Filipinos.

By the way, why does Eduarte want Filipinos to lead in large-scale mining? As part of the anti-mining group, does he not want large-scale mining totally banned because it damages the environment and displaces indigenous tribes?

2. Eduarte says the indigenous people were never consulted when the issue of mining was being discussed. Be that as it may, this is what the Supreme Court says about this issue: "We must never forget it is not only our less privileged brethren in tribal and cultural communities who deserve the attention of this court; all parties concerned—including the state itself, the contractor (whether Filipino or foreign), and the vast majority of our citizens—equally deserve the protection of the law and of the court. To stress, the benefits to be derived by the state from mining activities must ultimately serve the great majority of our fellow citizens ... Verily, the mineral wealth and natural resources of this country are meant to benefit not merely a select group of people living in the areas locally affected by mining activities, but the entire Filipino nation, present and future, to whom the mineral wealth really belongs."

3. On my remark that, in the Marcopper incident, nobody got sick, Eduarte asked, "Did General make a household survey after the incident?" What I wrote was based on the executive summary of the voluminous report of the US Geological Service, which conducted a thorough study of the incident. A small part of the summary reads, "The media reports of elevated mercury levels in some children could not be confirmed from the data available to the study team. Mercury is not present in large concentrations in the ore mined in Marcopper and would not have been used by Marcopper during ore processing. If mercury is identified as a health issue in Marinduque, other sources besides Marcopper should be considered."

4. I wrote, "So, when some meddlesome priests and gullible nuns protest against large-scale mining, aren't they trying to thwart God's eternal plan?" Eduarte asks, "Since when has General been privy to God's eternal plan? Is he a member of the heavenly council that discussed the inscrutable plan of the Almighty?"

If Eduarte believes banning large-scale mining is in the eternal plan, why does he want Filipinos to lead in large-scale mining and risk eternal damnation?

Anti-mining people are all tangled up in their fuzzy thinking. But an old codger like me cannot be led astray.

Controversial Wolfowitz meets WB shareholders

WASHINGTON—Paul Wolfowitz had his first interviews with World Bank members on Friday since his controversial nomination this week by President George W. Bush to lead the international agency.

In an interview with Reuters, Wolfowitz said he met board representatives for Japan, China, and with New Zealand who speaks for Australia, South Korea and several small Pacific islands on the 24-member board. He also met directors from Saudi Arabia and France.

World Bank shareholders have said they would interview the Pentagon's No. 2 official and one of its chief architects of the Iraq war, which would better help them decide if he is qualified for the job.

Wolfowitz did not give details of his first meetings but said he believed he could convince his critics that "he was a lot more than military issues" and cared deeply about development.

The choice of Wolfowitz rekindled tensions between Washington and European and other countries who fear he would change policies at the bank, which funds Third World development, to reflect Bush's foreign and social policies.

The interviewing process for Wolfowitz, now deputy defense secretary and a key architect of the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq, was expected to last two weeks.

Although there is no set process to select the president, experts said this was the first time in recent World Bank history that shareholders had asked to interview a nominee.

"The executive directors have agreed to conduct informal meetings over the coming days with the United States nominee as part of the consultative process," the bank said in a statement on Friday.

"Thereafter, the executive directors will meet in a formal session to select the president at which time an official announcement of the outcome will be made," it said.

Although his candidacy is contentious, Wolfowitz's approval by the board, which operates by consensus, is likely a foregone conclusion.

The United States has the largest voting share on the 24-member board, which represents the 184 member states, and traditionally nominates the bank president.

By tradition the United States has always chosen the head of the World Bank, while its sister organization, the International Monetary Fund, is led by a European. *Reuters*

High oil boosts US import prices, hurts confidence

NEW YORK—The cost of goods imported into the United States rose in February as oil prices soared, and higher prices at the gas pump in recent weeks put a damper on consumer confidence, economic data showed on Friday.

Michael Englund, chief economist at Action Economics in Boulder, Colorado, called February's import price rise "just the tip of the iceberg.

Import prices were 0.8 percent higher in February compared with January, and 6.1 percent above February levels last year, according to Labor Department data. Export prices were unchanged in February on month and up 3.4 percent on the year.

Petroleum prices jumped 3.9 percent last month and were nearly 30 percent higher than a year earlier. Higher prices for commodities also fueled a 2 percent rise in industrial supply prices from the previous month and a 19.2 percent increase on the year.

Richard DeKaser, chief economist at National City Corp. in Cleveland, Ohio, said rising prices for oil and other commodities were playing a prominent role in boosting prices for traded goods.

But "the larger issue is that we are seeing a steady increase in the ex-petroleum level. We are now seeing the effect of the significant changes in exchange rates," he said.

The dollar has lost about a third of its value against a basket of currencies since early 2002.

A weaker dollar typically makes imports more expensive and exports cheaper.

But over the three-year period, the effects of the dollar's sharp depreciation on import prices has been muted as suppliers chose to accept eroding margins rather than suffer falling sales as a result of price rises.

But many economists, including Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan, have said they expect import prices to start creeping higher as foreign companies' tolerance of tight profit margins wanes.

The University of Michigan's preliminary reading of its consumer confidence index for March slipped to 92.9 from 94.1 in its final February reading. The consensus forecast from Wall Street economists had been for a rise to 95.

Economists said higher gasoline prices were largely to blame for the slip in confidence.

The dollar rose to its highest level in a week versus the euro EUR, while US stocks ended nearly flat.

The Fed's policy-making committee meets next Tuesday, but economists said they do not expect the higher oil prices and other signs of creeping inflation pressures to encourage the Fed to raise rates at a faster clip than it has so far.

A Reuters poll of banks that trade directly with the Fed found all of the 19 surveyed expect the central bank to raise its benchmark federal funds interest rate by 25 basis points on March 22 to 2.75 percent.

The Fed already has raised the funds rate 150 basis points since last June in six quarter-point moves. *Reuters*

$11 MILLION

Wal-Mart in record settlement

NEW YORK—Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said on Friday it would pay a record $11 million to settle a civil probe by US authorities into allegations it knowingly hired floor-cleaning contractors who employed illegal aliens.

The world's largest retailer said the government will not pursue any criminal charges against Wal-Mart or any of its employees.

The deal resolves a more than four-year-long Department of Justice investigation into the employment practices of the company's former floor-cleaning contractors.

"This case breaks new ground ... because this is a record dollar amount for a civil immigration settlement" and because Wal-Mart has to set up an internal compliance program, said Michael Garcia, a Department of Homeland Security official.

Wal-Mart agreed to establish a way to verify that its independent contractors are taking reasonable steps to comply with immigration laws, and to provide training for store managers to prevent the hiring of illegal workers.

The $11-million deal is about four times larger than any other single payment received by the government in an illegal alien employment case, federal officials said.

"It is a lot of money, but we think that the amount is designed to get attention, and to remind businesses everywhere that they have a duty to ensure their outside contractors are following federal immigration laws," Wal-Mart spokesperson Mona Williams said on a conference call.

In a US Securities and Exchange Commission filing last September, Wal-Mart said any money paid to resolve the matter would have no material impact on its financial condition or results.

Bentonville, Arkansas-based Wal-Mart has annual sales of $256 billion, equivalent to the gross domestic product of Austria. In February alone, its total sales were $22.37 billion.

The agreement with the government includes a statement that "Wal-Mart did not have knowledge, at the time the independent contractors initially were hired, that the independent contractors knowingly hired, recruited or employed" undocumented workers, Wal-Mart said.

Wal-Mart said floor cleaning at its US stores will be done by Wal-Mart associates and that it is trying to build stronger internal controls into its contractor review process. *Reuters*

Wall St. nervous ahead of Fed meet

NEW YORK—After two rocky weeks for Wall Street, investors nervous over record oil prices face another challenge ahead with a Federal Reserve meeting widely expected to lift interest rates, and possibly send a new signal to the market.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 1.34 percent over the past week to close Friday at 10,629.67, capping a stunning turnaround two weeks after the blue chip index was within a few points of the 11,000 mark.

The broad-market Standard and Poor's 500 shed 0.87 percent to end the week at 1,189.65 and the Nasdaq composite tumbled 1.66 percent to 2,007.79, a new low for the year.

The stock market has been pressured by surging crude oil prices, which hit an all-time record above 57 dollars a barrel over the past week.

The combination of high oil and commodity prices along with the prospect of higher interest rates has dampened enthusiasm for stocks, while a weaker dollar has heightened inflation concerns.

But Wall Street will be looking this week to the Fed, which is widely expected to make its seventh quarter-point rate hike in as many meetings, boosting the federal funds rate to 2.75 percent.

Most analysts say the economy is strong enough to keep growing as the Fed gradually brings rates to a more neutral level.

But markets are nervous about whether the central bank will deviate from its "measured" pace of rate hikes to strike a decisive blow against inflation.

This would likely be signaled by a change in the language of the Fed statement Tuesday.

"Speculation surrounds the possible language change in the accompanying statement, in particular the removal of the 'measured' pace description," said Merrill Lynch senior economist Kathy Bostjancic.

Bostjancic noted that Fed chair Alan Greenspan did not use the words "accommodation," or stimulative, or "measured" in his recent speeches.

"Since Greenspan constructs the policy statement, we think there are high odds that the press release will be changed," she said.

"Greenspan appears to want to actively rein in the asset market bubbles, including housing, since the larger they grow, the larger the potential negative fallout on the economy if these bubbles burst."

But she said this could be a jolt to investors accustomed to low interest rates.

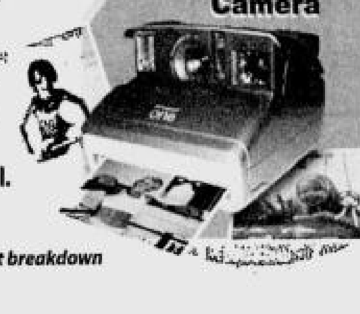
"Greenspan likely wants to continue to wean the financial markets from excessive liquidity, which should translate into increased market volatility and therefore, reduced investor complacency," she said.

The market is facing other woes including a dramatic new outlook from General Motors, which is warning of a horrendous year for automobiles, and possibly for other companies. *AFP*

PERFECT PRINTS IN A FLASH

₱8,195.00

FREE!
Polaroid One Instant Camera



Phaser 3115 *Laser Printer*

The ideal printer for home and office use. With its affordable price, the benefits of laser printing are now made available to all.

- *High Speed printing at 14 ppm*
- *Sharp Texts with 1200 dpi class resolution*
- *Capable of printing 15,000 pages per month without breakdown*
- *Low print cost*
- *With starter toner worth P3,000.00+*
- ***Very Affordable***

List Of Participating Outlets

Manila	
Compex - SM Manila	4004647
Compex - Tutuban Mall	2531615
Diamond Dreamchum	5227420
Mega Merge	7362649
Best Buy Computer	2548547
Pioneer Computer	4009598
Alabang	
Compex - SM South Mall	8067006
Starapple-SM South Mall	8007026/27
Dreamchum II	8003691
Compex - Festival Mall	8503654
PC Madness-Festival Mall	8503859
Starapple - Festival Mall	8503942
Compex - SM Sucat	8254467
PC Supplies	8524293
Quezon City	
MCA CD Romania	3238888
Bayan PC	6870710
SmartLink System	3631239
Techpoint	7231254
PC Madness	7248472
Cainta Rizal	
Compex - Sta Lucia Mall	6465640

Caloocan	
Pinnacle Technologies	323 8888
Multi Trust Computer	363 1239
SM MegaMall	
Compex	6331862
Villman	6830532
Brochiere	6332172
SM West	
Compex	9204610
Villman	9267322
Amazon	4266860
Shangrila	
Starapple	6374295
Makati	
Compex - Parksquare	9288382
Villman - Parksquare	7527758
Starapple-Makati Cinema	8111422/24
Quezon City (Gilmore)	
PC Specialist I	7232950/60
PC Specialist II	4100158
PC City	7051326
PC Outlet	4102829
PC House	7264314
PC Options	4151488

Luzon	
Pinnacle Technology - Bulacan	(044) 6620634
Planet Earth - Vigan	(077) 6320546
Benerson Enterprises - Tarlac	(045) 9823920
Maxan Computer - Laoag	(077) 7731556
Northpoint Computer - Laoag	(077) 7703521
New Ongto Expressmart - Iriga	(054) 2992550
RCA - Cavite	(054) 2995678
RCA - Lucena	(042) 6603899
RCA - Naga	(054) 8118483
Prologue - Laguna	(049) 5362057
PC 4 Me - LaUnion	(072) 888 2249
SKM - La Union	(072) 8885339
Laser Marketing - Baguio	(074) 4425854
PC King - Baguio	(074) 4428357
Visayas	
Delta Merchandising-Iloilo	(033) 3363196
Hardycom - Bacolod	(034) 4338705
Mindanao	
Datavision - Iligan	(063) 221 2973
Global PC Computer - Butuan	(085) 3411188
Wren Computer - Davao	(082) 2240052
Digital Interface - Davao	(082) 2272282
Coneco Sales - Cotobato	(064)4218193

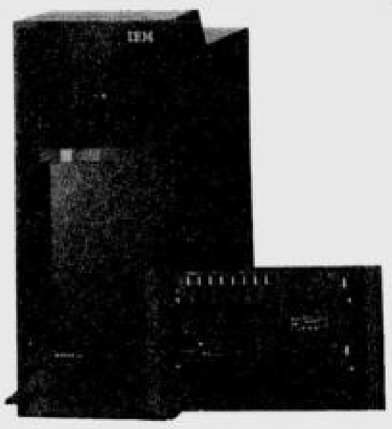
better solutions
AMERICANTECHNOLOGIES, INC.

THE DOCUMENT COMPANY
FUJI XEROX

Promo period: March 7-31, 2005
Per DTI-NCR Permit #1253 Series of 2005

url www.ati.com.ph • e-mail: inquire@ati.com.ph • Tel:723 0601 to 10 • Fax: 721 7951/726 64 15

IBM @server pSeries
POWER 5
MADE EASY



Industry's first 64-bit high-performance UNIX server at a surprisingly affordable price!

Power to Create
Using IBM's Virtualization Engine, you can create (or "micro-partition") as many as 10 virtual servers per processor, each with it's own operating system of AIX5L or LINUX.

Power to Save
Enterprises will end up investing less on license costs per CPU basis and thus lower operating costs in maintenance, power and cooling thanks to the legendary superiority of 64-bit computing now made even better with POWER5.

Power to Perform
Mainframe-inspired reliability, availability and serviceability (RAS) capabilities ensure that your systems are up and running round the clock.

p520 Machine Type Model 9111-520

CPU: 1 way, 1.5 GHz POWER5
Memory: 1 GB (4 x 256 MB) DIMMS DDR
Disk: 2 x 36.4 GB 10K Internal Disk
NIC: 2 Integrated 1 GBit UTP Ethernet Ports
Adapters: PCI-X Ultra 320 Dual Channel SCSI Controller
Media: IDE Slimline DVD-ROM Drive, Graphics Adapter
IBM 15" TFT Monitor, Keyboard & Mouse
Form Factor: Rack Mount (4U) / Deskside
3 years 9 x 5 Next Business Day Hardware Warranty
O.S: AIX 5.3

IBM Business Partner

Call +63 (2) 812.7666
Lyn Dela Luna (Loc. 180)
for more inquiries

Participating Dealers:

Dataworld Computer Center
Raymond Fernando (Reymond@dataworld.com.ph)
T. +63 (88) 857 5484

Questronix Corporation
Pie Valencia (pie_valencia@questronix.com.ph)
T. +63 (2) 857 7300

RCS (Right Computer Systems, Inc.)
Ellen Escalante (escalante@rcs.com.ph)
T. +63 (2) 813 7501

SANDZ
Joy Ortiz (joy_ortiz@sandz.com)
T. +63 (2) 888 5757

Systems Standards Incorporated
Anthony Jose (anthony_jose@ssi.com.ph)
T. +63 (2) 812 2325

SPECIAL PRICE
₱419,800.00
(until April 15, 2005)

Add only P49,830 for a p520 ServicePac
Enjoy all these features for the next 3 YEARS:
- Parts replacement
- 24x7 Hardware support
- Same Business Day On-Site Service

sales@wsiphil.com.ph
1 800 1 888 9301
Manila • 63 2 812 7666
Cebu •63 32 255 1012 - 14
www.wordtext.com.ph

Value Added Distributor
WSi
Wordtext Systems, Inc

Data extends perindopril benefits to all hypertensives

THE MANAGEMENT of hypertension is set to be turned on its head following the new data presented during the recently concluded American College of Cardiology (ACC) Annual Scientific Sessions from the Anglo-Scandinavian Cardiac Outcomes Trial (Ascot)1. The groundbreaking preliminary results indicate that the treatment combination of amlodipine and Coversyl (perindopril) is significantly better than the current first-line treatment strategy of atenolol/bendroflumethiazide at reducing total mortality in patients with hypertension. In the United Kingdom, over 2 million hypertension patients are either on beta blockers, a diuretic, or both. Over 900,000 of these are on atenolol or bendroflumethiazide monotherapy, and an additional 639,000 patients take the combination of the two.

"These results are hugely significant for the future management of hypertension", commented professor Peter Sever, co-chair of the steering committee. "The health benefits associated with perindopril/amlodipine compared with atenolol/bendroflumethiazide raise concerns about the future place of beta-blockers as first-line treatment choice for hypertension."

Ascot is a major multi-national trial involving over 19,000 hypertensive patients that compared the effectiveness of two different treatment strategies in reducing cardiovascular events. The new treatment strategy (the angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, perindopril and the calcium channel blocker, amlodipine) was found to offer significant advantages over the older treatment strategy (the beta blocker, atenolol and the thiazide diuretic, bendroflumethiazide), to such an extent that the trial was stopped early by the Ascot steering committee in December 2004. This is the first time that a hypertension trial has been stopped early due to a difference in all-cause mortality between two antihypertensive treatment regimens.

The study found that the perindopril/amlodipine treatment combination significantly reduced death by any cause, cardiovascular death, stroke, total coronary events and new-onset diabetes, compared with the atenolol/bendroflumethiazide combination.

Big news

"The results of this trial are big news," remarked Dr. Adrian Brady, consultant cardiologist at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. "Not only do they question the value of beta blockers as a first-line treatment for hypertension, they also add to the growing body of evidence for the beyond blood pressure-lowering effects of perindopril as previously demonstrated in studies such as Europa and Progress."

Hypertension is a major risk factor for CHD and stroke, and perindopril already has significant evidence in patients who are already diagnosed with these conditions. In the Europa study (European trial on the Reduction Of cardiovascular events with Perindopril in patients with stable coronary

CONTINUED BELOW

O2 Asia's Two & Men a Lady

Three top executives vow to make O2 a competitive brand in mobile communications in the country. And at one step at a time, they're living up to their promise.

From left to right:
Chia Eng Keat, Pei Wen Wong and Mark Billington

Mark Billington, Chia Eng Keat and Pei Wen Wong, O2 Asia Chief Executive Officer, VP for Sales and Distribution and VP for Brand and Marketing, respectively, see the Philippines as one of the big markets in the mobile industry today. Under their leadership, no doubt O2 will climb to the top of the ladder of the country's mobile communications industry.

Billington was appointed Chief Executive Officer of O2 Asia in July 2003 with the task of implementing O2's strategy in the region, which involves the delivery of smart mobile devices and associated mobile data applications and services all throughout Asia. In just a few years' time, he has made O2 physically present in six countries.

Prior to this, Billington started his career in O2 Netherlands, first as a Chief Operating Officer of the then BT subsidiary, and eventually was appointed Senior Vice President for Products and Data where he managed all online activities and led O2 to the top spot of the mobile data market. By March 2003, under his supervision, O2 Netherlands had the fastest growing SMS usage in the market, and has successfully launched the Xda and Blackberry.

Eng Keat, on the other hand, ensures the execution of the company's regional distribution strategy in Asia as the VP for Sales and Distribution. He is no stranger to the technology business, as he has worked for Motorola as Regional Sales and Distribution Director. During that time, Eng Keat has effected business engagement changes in several markets and secured major wins from the overall industry's profit pool. With his knowledge and experience, he has managed to keep the brand in the top ranks of the industry.

Taking the O2 brand into a strong leadership position across the Asia Pacific is the task given to Pei Wen Wong as O2 Asia's VP for Brand and Marketing. But with her extensive experience and marketing flair, there's no doubt she'll bring O2 to the top as she had steered O2's entry in the PDA-phone retail market in Asia, and had successfully launched the O2 X-range of mobile devices in Singapore and Indonesia during her stint as Country Manager for that region. Under her leadership, O2 is becoming synonymous with both style and substance.

The new O2 Xdall mini

Now, the three bigwigs join forces to make O2 the big thing in mobile communications in the Philippines. In a spectacular Appreciation Party held last March 14, at the poolside of the Mandarin Oriental, the 3 top executives formally introduces the smallest PDA, O2's Xda II mini. Mark Billington, Pei Wen Wong & Chia Eng Keat, believe that there is a big market waiting for O2 in the Philippines.

It is for this reason, that O2 has partnered with Mr. Chris Uyco, VP & GM of Haldane Phils., Inc. With their combined knowledge, dedication and pursuit for excellence, they will truly steer O2 to its success in the country."

AUCTION

www.henrybutcher.com

SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

At.: Henry Butcher Auction Center - Hilon Cmpd., Bo. Mayapa, Canlubang, Laguna
ON: TUESDAY 29TH MARCH 2005 - 10:30AM SHARP

MOTOR VEHICLES; GENERATING SETS; ELECTRICALS; POWER TOOLS/HAND TOOLS; OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT; MISCELLANEOUS, ETC.

MOTOR VEHICLES - TOYOTA 2000 Model Hi-Ace Van; ISUZU 10-Wheeler Drop Side Cargo Truck
GENERATING SETS - AIRMAN SDG605 60 kva, 6DG45S 45 kva Silent Type; DENYO 25 kva Brushless AC Silent Type; DENYO 280SS Welder/Generator; SHIN KOBE 6000 SL 7.8 kva, 5000 SL 6 kva Air Cooled Diesel; TSURMA TM60 6 kva Air Cooled Diesel Generators
ELECTRICALS - MITSUBISHI 800 Amp Circuit Breakers; Socket Outlets & Plugs; Transformers; Dimmer Switches; Electrical Meters; CROUSSE-HINDS Explosion Proof Gauges & Switches
POWER TOOLS / HAND TOOLS - 2-Ton Capacity Manual Stackers; CHALLENGER 10-Ton Shop Press; 16-Ton Hydraulic Pipe Banders; MILTON Cut-Off Saw; MAKINA Cut-Off Saw; Hydraulic Body Frame Repair Kits; Hydraulic Floor Jacks; VESPA LD1002 Air Compressors; DAIHATSU Welding Machines; MAKINA Routers; MAKITA Drill & Grinder Sets; HURRICANE Angle Grinders; SUPPORT PLUS Drill Sets; CROSSMAN Socket Wrench Sets; SATO Combination Wrench Sets; Adjustable Wrenches; Pipe Wrenches; Vice Grips; Plier Sets; Tin Snips; MILTON 10" Table Saw; 12-Speed Drill Press
OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - Office Swivel Chairs; Wooden Office Tables; Computer Tables; Wooden Cabinets; Steel Filing Cabinets; Pedestal Drawers; MANNESMANN MT691 Tally Printers; Printer Toners & Cartridges
MISCELLANEOUS - Aluminum Framed Glass Panels; Steel Chutes; Flash Lights; Table Lamps; Cue Balls; Clay Pots; Car Accessories; Car Seats; DAIKOHU Submersible Pumps; Gate Valves; Bearings; King Size Bed; Door Knob Sets; Kitchen Knives; etc.

On View: Monday 28th March 2005 - 9am to 5pm & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php10,000 (upon registration)
Please bring valid ID to be presented during registration
For further information please contact Carol Cosca at Tel: 049 834 6541
Email: carol.cosca@henrybutcher.com

GoIndustry Henry Butcher
HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC
Rm 102 Jolliland Bldg [illegible] Edsa Pasay City Philippines
Tel No [illegible] Fax No [illegible]
E mail [illegible]henrybutcher.com
Website www.henrybutcher.com www.goindustry.com

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
Quezon City

Needed Immediately

GENERAL MANAGER

for

ISBELA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (ISELCO II)
Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela

Qualifications:
- 30-50 YEARS OLD
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Isabela

Starting Salary : P35,000.00

Application form and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th Floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application form is on 05 April 2005.

(Sgd.) EDITA S. BUENO
Administrator

(PDI - March 20 & 21, 2005)

MORE PEP ON PAGE B2-6

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PRUDENTIALIFE PLANS, INC. OFFICIAL RECEIPT NOS. 4750000000002 TO 4750000002000 ARE MISSING AND ARE NO LONGER RECOGNIZED BY THE COMPANY AS OFFICIAL COMPANY RECEIPTS. ANY TRANSACTIONS COVERED BY THESE RECEIPTS SHALL NOT BE RECOGNIZED NOR CONSIDERED VALID BY PRUDENTIALIFE PLANS, INC.

Prudentialife Plans, Inc.
Prudentialife Building, 118 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Prudentialife Direct: 864-8000; Text Hotlines: 0917-819-7574; 0918-979-7574
Email: helpdesk@prudentialife.com
www.prudentialife.com

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
P.O. Box 789, 0980 Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. 632-4444; Fax 636-2577 or 631-6899
Email: fpalabrica@adb.org, emontevirgen@adb.org

INVITATION to PREQUALIFY and BID

CONTRACT SERVICES for OFFICE of INFORMATION SYSTEMS and TECHNOLOGY
(Contract No. ADB/OAS-2005/019)

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites experienced interested companies to apply for prequalification in the bidding for Contract Services for the Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST).
2. The Contractor shall provide Information Technology (IT) Services with specialized skills, knowledge and wide experience to undertake the service required by OIST. The required number of IT Service personnel to be deployed at ADB is at a minimum of 64. The actual composition is a mixture of Application Systems Services (Quality Test); Computer Systems Development (Oracle, Web, Lotus Notes); Technical Support (Database, System, Network, Security, and Notes Administration); PC Technology Hardware (Desktop, Printer, and Notebook); and Data Center Operations and IT Assistance. The scope of services is provided in detail in the Work Performance Statement to be given to interested applicants.
3. Prequalification documents can be obtained from Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 1636 South, at the above address, from 18–23 March 2005 on any working day (8.00 am to 4:00 pm). For inquiries you may contact Edwin Montevirgen at the above telephone/fax numbers or email address.
4. Invitation to bid will be issued to prequalified applicants who pass the prequalification criteria and evaluated as prequalified by considering the evaluation criteria, which will be verified by site inspections, if necessary.
5. Only prequalified companies will be contacted and issued bidding documents. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification, and to postpone issuance of bidding documents.
6. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the application for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant.

Chairperson
Institutional Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank ADB
FIGHTING POVERTY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

(PDI-March 18 & 21, 2005)

Data...

Continued

Artery disease), the addition of perindopril to existing treatments brought a further 20-percent relative risk reduction in the combined endpoint of cardiovascular death, non-fatal MI and resuscitated cardiac arrest, while the Progress study3 showed that one out of 10 stroke sufferers given a therapy based on perindopril avoided either death, MI or further stroke over four years of treatment. The results of Ascot extend the exciting benefits of perindopril to patients without evidence of cardiovascular disease, but who are hypertensive.

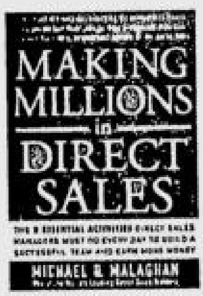
Perindopril is available in the Philippines as Coversyl.

WORLD'S SALES GURU IN MANILA IN MAY!

MICHAEL G. MALAGHAN

MAKE MORE MILLIONS IN SALES!

May 4, 2005 (Wednesday), 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
New World Hotel, Pasay Road corner Makati Ave., Makati City



During his 40 - plus year career, Malaghan has recruited, trained and led sales teams that sold more than $2 billion worth of products and has enabled many of his direct staff to become millionaires in their own right. He is the head of Malaghan Sales Management Development, author of "Making Millions in Direct Sales," and one of the most respected names in the sales industry. For more info, visit **www.malaghan.com.**

TO REGISTER,
call (632) 935-6678, 937-0376 or
e-mail optima@edsamail.com.ph

Malaghan's precise directions will have you champing at the bit to apply his proven techniques. When the session is finished, you will charge back to the office to start some sales generating changes that can earn additional millions for your company and a performance star for your sales organization!

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
SESSION 1: CREATING & LEADING A TEAM THAT MAKES MILLIONS IN SALES

Is your sales team missing opportunities? "YES," says Mike Malaghan. "And they are right under your nose!" In fact, all sales organizations have unrealized sales generating potential that once fully tapped could mean additional millions for your company. Discover why and what you as the senior leader can do about it NOW!

Malaghan will share secrets that will explode your prospecting, selling, training and motivational opportunities. Learn how Mike's 8 Essential Activities can change your current results – practically overnight!

2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
SESSION 2: 60 SALES TECHNIQUES TO MAKE MORE MILLIONS

Hold on to your seats for a breathless two-hour presentation that will make you more money in 2005. Any salesperson can do better with better practices. This is a "do this" seminar.

Malaghan's menu of 60 sales management practices will show you how to sell more, train better, be better motivated and increase your staying power in sales. You will learn how to use the 14 key motivators, how to put excitement in your training and sales meetings, and how to build a charismatic leadership persona.

AT POPULAR PRICES! (includes handouts, certificate, one snack)

A.M. SESSION: P1,500 per session (Regular), P1,750 (Patron); P.M. SESSION: P750 (Regular), P1,000 (Patron).

GROUP DISCOUNT: 5 paid registrations plus 1 free registration for same session.

For in-depth training programs, contact Training Works/ ECCP at tel. no. (632) 845-1324, (632) 759-6680.

Presented by:

TRAINING WORKS
eccp EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES
OPTIMUS INNOVATIONS, INC.

Sponsored by:

McGraw Hill Professional
NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE HOTEL MAKATI CITY
MICRODATA "AV Systems Integrator"
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

POWER SECTOR
ASSETS & LIABILITIES
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("*PSALM*") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee ("*Committee*") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

600 MW Batangas Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant located at San Rafael, Calaca, Batangas

(the "*Asset*"). The Asset is being privatized on an "*as is where is*" basis.

Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Interest ("*LOI*") to PSALM which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, signed by an authorized representative, and with the latest audited financial statement attached to the submission. All LOIs must be received by PSALM at the PSALM Office, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 5:00 p.m. on April 8, 2005 (the "*LOI Submission Deadline*"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S. $ 1,000.00) (the "*Participation Fee*"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking and Participation Fee must be received by PSALM on or before 5:00 p.m. of April 8, 2005 to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package, which includes the bidding procedures, shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from April 4, 2005 until April 8, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. (the "*Deadline*") at the PSALM Office. In accordance with the bidding procedures, only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or a consortium which includes an interested party will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence : April 4, 2005, to May 13, 2005
Pre-bid Conference : April 14, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office
Deadline for Receipt of Bids by PSALM : May 18, 2005, 12:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office

References to dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

Interested parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to ten percent (10%) of its total bid price in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, confirmed by a local bank and acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Other details of the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telephone number (632) 893-8202 loc. 202 or 206, telefax number (632) 840-3896 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes

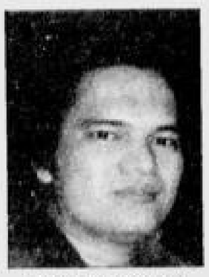
(Sgd.) RAPHAEL P. M. LOTILLA
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

(March 21, 22 & 23, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that the following are no longer connected with **Eco-Triangle Microsystems Co., Inc.** They are not authorized to transact any business in behalf of Eco-Triangle and any transaction made with them after the dates stated herein will not be recognized by the company.

REYNALDO A. BUCAYO
February 25, 2005



JEFFREY M. CALANOC
September 15, 2004

ANGELITO A. JOUSSEF
January 30, 2004

(PDI - March 21 2005)

CALL POEA

24-HOUR HOTLINES

722-1144
or
722-1155

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF USED/WASTE OIL

"AS IS, WHERE IS", "TAKE ALL" AND "CLEAN UP"

DATE OF BIDDING: **April 12, 2005, 2:00 PM, Solarium Hall, Building-1, Ground Floor NPC-Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C.**

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding for the sale of the following:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION	MIN. BID PRICE
-1-	**One-Year Contract of Sale for Used/Waste Oil Generation at Panay Diesel Power Plant Complex in Dingle, Iloilo Province.** Important: This Disposal/Sale is limited only to accredited EMB-DENR Hazardous Waste TSD Facility Operators (Treaters) and subject to Post Qualification and Inspection of actual operating facility prior to award of contract.	P4.00 Per Liter

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/ CASHIER'S CHECK IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF P120,000.00;
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2003 or 2004) ORIGINAL OR CERTIFIED XEROX COPY FOR THE BIDDER OR AN AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY;
3. VALID EMB-DENR ACCREDITATION FOR TSD FACILITY OPERATOR (TREATER) WITH THE ACCREDITED HAZARDOUS WASTE TRANSPORTER.

All interested parties who wish to secure the bid forms for this public bidding must present a valid Income Tax Return (2003/2004 original or BIR certified copy) and valid identification card with picture (such as Company IDs, Passport, Driver's License, PRC Licensure Card, etc.), and must present original EMB-DENR accreditations.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P1,000.00/set from Mr. S.V. Lomuntad, Jr./Mr. Al Plata at MMD, Ground Floor, Bldg.-1, NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone no. 924-5384. Deadline for issuance of the bid forms is until 4:30 p.m., April 11, 2005.

For the materials Management Department

(Sgd.) **FELIX B. TACATA, JR.**
OIC, MMD

(PDI - March 21, 22 & 23, 2005)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

P.O Box 789, 0980 Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. (632) 632-4306/4231, (632) 632-4444 Fax No (632) 636-2577
Email: psantiago@adb.org, cpsoriano@adb.org

INVITATION to BID

PROCUREMENT of VARIOUS PRINTING PAPER

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, wishes to receive bids from prospective bidders for about 268.18 metric tons, Various Printing Paper: Bond Paper, Recycled Paper, Recycled Bond Paper and Matt Paper (hereinafter referred to as "Goods")
2. The bidder shall be from a member country of ADB, and the Various Printing Paper being offered shall be produced in a member country or countries of ADB.
3. Bid documents may be obtained from the office of the Officer-In-Charge, Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, OAIS-PC, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services (OAS), Room 1636S at the above address, from 18 and 21-23 March 2005 (from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
4. Bids should reach ADB not later than 10:00 a.m. on 8 April 2005. For inquiries, contact Cita Soriano (telephone 632-4306) at the above e-mail address.
5. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of order, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for ADB's action.
6. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of Bid shall be borne solely by the Bidder.

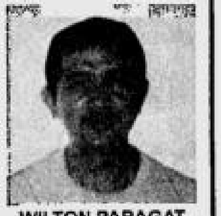
Chairperson
Institutional Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank ADB
FIGHTING POVERTY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

(PDI-March 18 & 21, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

VANGIE PARAGAT



WILTON PARAGAT

This is to inform all concerned that a Warrant of Arrest was issued on October 18, 2004 by the Hon. Judge Amelia A. Fabros of the Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 160 against spouses **VIRGILIA P. PARAGAT a.k.a "VANGIE"** and **WILTON PARAGAT**, both of whom have been charged with the crime of **ESTAFA**, docketed as Criminal Case No.129140.

Kindly convey any information on their present whereabouts to Mobile # 0919-6289920. A reward will be given to any person who will provide information that will lead to the arrest of the two accused. All information given shall be treated confidentially.

LCR FORM 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R. A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that RUDY C. AGTANG has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from EUGENIO to RUDY in the Certificate of Live Birth of EUGENIO AGTANG who was born on December 13, 1948 at Bo. 4 Vintar, Ilocos Norte and whose parents are EUSEBIO AGTANG and ANDREA CALUYA.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than March 22, 2005.

(Sgd) NORMA S. DIPUTADO
City Civil Registrar

(PDI - March 14 & 21, 2005)

Accounting for Non-Accountants Seminar set

THIS is especially designed for non-accounting managers, supervisors and personnel. Whether you like it or not, you have to work with some issues in basic accounting. Topics include: The accounting cycle; Adjusting journal entries; Financial Statements like Balance Sheet and Income Statements; The Cash Flow Statement and Financial Statements. This program is slated on Friday, April 8, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria, Ortigas. The workshop will have as its resource lecturer Ms. Cecile Catahan, Consultant, Trainer and Certified Public Accountant. This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Limited seats only.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 897-8425 (Direct) ☎ 8978800 (Trunk) Fax 897-8425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL
CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2005

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7270124 - 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid
Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071
Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

GARMA CLINIC
VD SPECIALIST
VD GONORRHEA, WARTS
SYPHILIS, AIDS, HERPES
CHILDREN, ADULT CIRCUMCISION
Painless, Bloodless
SKIN DISEASES
BOLITAS, HUMPS
COMPLETE LABORATORY
Garma Bldg., No. 8 Purdue St,
Cubao, Q.C.
OPEN 8 AM to 6 PM MON. to FRI.
TEL. NO. 4392706/9139474

PERSONAL

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

Ecological House
Passive cooling, costless water, renewable energy. Call 687-0358 M-F, 9-5pm
ASPEN RIDGE
We Design for the future.

COSMETOLOGY

Genuine Amira Skin Whitening Cream, Low Retail & Whle Sale Price 721-6747

PINK Nips / Lips / Cheeks Cream P800 0918-9235216

Whitening Pills P1500 60caps 4545667 ; 09189235216

MASSAGE

02-3233269 BEST BOYS

AKHIN MLA#834-7357 Cebu, Bgo, Davao, Ormoc, Palawan

ASK BELL MALE MASSEUR (0921)5364794

BEAUTIE'S MASSAGE
MLA:8851973 CEBU: (032) 2562187

BOY'S MASSAGE
MLA:4587093 CEBU: (032) 2593809

Candy 8971506;09212085309

MALE MASSAGE
0920-9064273

MALE/F 09192714842 BEAN

Male/Female Home/Hotel Service • 0915-4083339

MR. UNIVERSE MASSAGE
1157 Quezon Ave. 410-1259

Mr BODY PHYSIQUE
11A Kamias QC 4350978

MY GUYZ 0927-4603728

RELAXING MASSAGE 8970214

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7509278

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE 752-0018

Vermont Place 562-9746

REFLEXOLOGY

Feels Good 4127758

•Wizard Massage 4213197•

HOUSEHOLD

Disiplinado Maids 4358404

MASIPAG MAIDS 4333132

TRUSTED MAID, YAYA 5781796

CARPET CLEANING

VINYL MARBLE & OTHER
SRVCS 9302987 0916-4181975

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAID & YAYA 4386920

ALL ARND YAYA 4377886

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253

HI PAY MAID, YAYA 732-67-50

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Best Maid Yaya Cook 421-4652

Best maids aa yaya 4547542

EXPD MAIDS w/NBI 4398468

Hardworking Maids 421-3828

Help Agency 6328376 • 6322971

NEED MAIDS 0915-5544777

BEST MAIDS 8294261

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9209784 4540520

Cheap 9260424/09272207989

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

CAVITE

INDANG CAVITE PROPERTY
Indang Property right beside Indang British School
Pls. call 374-6007 8am-5pm

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

•Kamias No. 11 K-I cor K-6th• 9210255 9219967 9209822

KATIPUNAN Ext Coml 1200m² P8,500/m² 09189235216

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

READY FOR OCCUPANCY
LAS PINAS or BACOOR
Only P5,000 to reserve
No loan requirement
• 874-0487 • 873-59-49 •

MAKATI

Nr. Ayala 2BR 2TB 8908681

MANILA

SAN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grgo P3.492M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

300sqm P6.5M Payapa St. Mandaluyong 09275220353

MANDALUYONG House &Lot; LA 300SQM FA 240SQM 5BR 1DEN; 1 MAID'S ROOM; 4 T&B; 2 CAR GARAGE CALL CYNTHIA 532-4895

MARIKINA

1511m² cor lot 634-1212

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

PARANAQUE

BNew 6BR 6TB 2CG 2Stry Rush 0916-3255615 DBO 15M

Pque 180m² 4BR 5TB RUFTOP 3GRG 3 MAIDS RM 09209202839

QUEZON CITY

Proj.7 200m² 0922-8030856

NR ARANETA CENTER/Makro (1)two stry hse, 2 bungalow LA302m² 0917-7499447

RUSH ACROPOLIS P15M ONLY 300m² MORNING SUN 3BR 8894796;6475;6337601-03

SKTNA 16M Capitol 4.5M Sct 1M • 0917-8261059

PROVINCIAL

For Rent w/ option To Buy within 1 year Behind Paras Beach Resort Camiguin Island T• (088)387-9159 / 387-9517

BULACAN

1800/mo-20yrs (0920)9009843

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

THE SUITES
AT
MOUNT MALARAYAT
An ACTIVEGROUP Community

Gracious residential condo living within a world-class golf course resort setting

Studio units nearing completion!
To experience the Suites life, call
893-7024
or email
sales@activegroup.com.ph

ACTIVEGROUP INCORPORATED

BROKERS AND AGENTS ARE WELCOME!

HOUSE & LOT

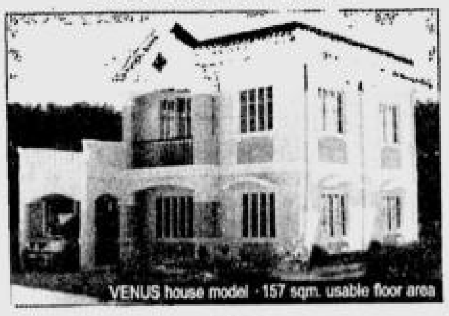
QUEZON CITY

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

CORTE BELLA

The Metro Homes Division of:
FILINVEST LAND, INC.



VENUS house model · 157 sqm. usable floor area

Spring Country
CAPITOL HILLS, QUEZON CITY

BIG DISCOUNTS & FREE TRIPPING!

724-7543 • 721-0771

HOUSE & LOTS AND HOMELOTS AVAILABLE
Bank and In-house payment available

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

RSG GUEVENTHOMES

BACOOR only 10 mins from Baclaran

as low as
P4,800/mo*
* Pag-IBIG Housing Loan

as low as **P750T**
30% D/P
in easy installment
70% Balance thru In-House convertible to Pag-IBIG Housing Loan
Mandaluyong Sales Ofc.
531-0395 • 531-1384 • 534-9921
(0920)810-6000 • (0920)RSGHOME
Toll free: 1-800-10 RSGHOME
www.guevent.com
other sites available
Cainta, Quezon City

CAVITE

P600K L-11 Blk-6 Regatta- West Subd, Bucandala-3, Imus 4 BR/ 2T&B Cell (0922)803-2895

TAGAYTAY NEW HOUSE & LOT P3.5M ALSO AVAILABLE FARM LOT TEL#733-7767/69/73 (MON-SAT)

LAGUNA

3400/mo 25yrs (0910)8303679

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.1M C5 Nr The Fort
10T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8313226

Kensington Global City Pre-sell 2-3br 634-1212

P1.5M 3Br Condo Nr Mktl Roy 0910-3178008 • 8736426

MAKATI

RESORT TYPE CONDO
2-4BR 1.2M UP N/O'FORT & ORTGS SEMI FUR COMPLT AMENT'S RENT 2 OWN & PG-IBG OK. 09206348545

ROCKWELL RIZAL TOWER 283 SQM. 3 BEDROOMS (all ensuite), DESIGNER CONDO, 3 PARKING, MAID'S. FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED CONTACT OWNER AT 0917-5303865

ROCKWELL RIZAL TOWER 283 SQM. 3 BEDROOMS (all ensuite), DESIGNER CONDO, 3 PARKING, MAID'S. FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED CONTACT OWNER AT 0917-5303865

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT BnewTwnhse /4stry/3br/3tb/grgo/mdsrm/deck P3.695M up 8903461

Nr UST 250sq.m 634-1212

Somerset Condo in Ayala Fully Furn w/1Parking CBD Area P4.5M 0927-9162685

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189617

Cityland Shaw 1br 0917-5213838

PARANAQUE

RUSH SALE Elysium Comp 3BR 4TB w/ Mds Rm 09189009342

PASAY

CONDO FOR RENT CENTRAL PARK PASAY T5219009 / 8242943

PASIG

Crisanta Twr Nr Ultra 2br 2tb 1Prk 634-1212

MGA Plaza 1.8M 30m² Studio 419-6573 • 0917-8251059

QUEZON CITY

5th Av Cubao Direct Buyers 0920-4122800/0915-4037299

CAYLABNE
Cavite Beach Front
Overlooking Corregidor Island
721-5288/0917-8909051 Geo

EASTWOOD 3BR3TB 4.2M
AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY
Panoramic View Pool 77m²
09184845443

Eastwood City Resd'l 5 Yr to Pay 0917-5213838

HIGHEST CONDO in QC 1&2br Penthse2.5-7M 09189235216

Sct Tuazon condo 2M 4141700

RIZAL

CAINTA/ANTIPOLO
thse 2br la50 nice P1.1-1.5M Pgbg/Inhse/Bank 0920-9112910

SAN JUAN

Classica Manor Studio RUSH! 1.7M Neg T253-0008

APARTMENT

MANILA

4 DOOR APT CALL MRS UMALI 7355102 7319839

LOT

LAS PINAS

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE LAS PINAS 2000 sq. meters T5210009 / 8242943

MAKATI

298m² @P30T/m² 0917-9160226

MANILA

383m² V.Mapa Sta. Mesa P181m² 0927-5220353 721-3127

MARIKINA

Cinco Hermanos 300/600m² 15T /Neg 723-5868 0917-3395109

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

PROVINCIAL

100% TAGAYTAY
240m²-up 3,568m² 134T D/P 6 Mos to pay 6T Mo. nr Taal Vista 6609372

PARANAQUE

Better Living 240sq.m P9T/sq.m Nego. Nr Comm'l Area Look For Oliver T746-0998 • 0921-4225002

PATEROS

PATEROS 200m² H/L 5323936

PATEROS 509 m² 12T 5323936

QUEZON CITY

Metropoli Resd'l / Comm'l Libis 6414323 0919-7027249

10 COMM'L LOTS 216m² along wide Zabarte Road 10yrs to pay or cash LS Barlisan 9118637/4373077

RESIDENTIAL or UP Ateneo 204m² to 816m² P8,500/m² 09189235216

RIZAL

Beverly Hills 862m² 842-5621

SAN JUAN

SAN JUAN Vor St. nr. Aquinas School P18M 0927-5226353 • 721-3127

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Ridgewood Tagaytay alng Main Road 6414323 0919-7027249

CAVITE

Imus Agnaldo Hw 0917626182

LAGUNA

CALAMBA 3Has. 842-5621

MEMORIAL LOT

LOY-MK FLY EST.@2.5M 8386645

LOY-PQ/MKN 8 SLOTS 09164834182

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

SUCAT CALL PM 8201453

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

Attn: DLSU Students! 21m² Condo Burgandy Taft 851-8175 0920-9120176 Art

MANDALUYONG

3BR & 2TB w/ tel & grge 115-B G. Alvaran St., Mand. Call 9117118 P12,000/month

QUEZON CITY

Studio P3.2T Frisco QC Tel 9317159 / 4503754

Studio Type 30m² Nr F'view & Mrket P4T 7181885 09179665772

SAN JUAN

Condo 2BR 2TB w/parking P22T/mo. Nr. Xavier 721-3127

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

Cubao fabshp P25T 725-7342

Cubao wkshop P25T 8974697

ROOM & BOARD

•FURNISH PASAY 8872805•

Windsor Inn, Maceda St. Mla nr 7-11 Dimasalang P120only 783-6781 • 0922-8321888

BEDSPACE

Mkt nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

MAKATI nr BUENDIA PTAMO 120/148/185/M² 1st class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

RESORT LEASE/ RENT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

LOAN & MORTGAGE

BUSINESS , DOCTOR 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

SHAW TOWER 28sqm - 37sqm@ P8T-P11T/mo.0917-9160226

Taft Ave nr Faura Office-Table Space for Rent 404-2207 800-6667

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

APARTMENT FOR SALE/RENT

APT 4 SALE/RENT 4500-7000 Bedspace 1500 M/F Call AJ 5610900 / 09167144320 • 09204136412

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

00CRV 4x4 595T 09185543840

02Cvic VTI 550T 09209241801

HYUNDAI

'96 GRACE T531-7474 P149T

NISSAN

01Exalta DS 350T 09164238154

2002 Mdl 55Tkm. M/T 4x2 0919-8707359 • 0919-3552516

2005 BRAND NEW X-TRAIL 50 DP CEFIRO 73DP URVAN 98DP FRONTIER 73T PATRL 236 SENTRA13 NODOWN ACC EPT TRADEIN 09173823049

TOYOTA

'00 Revo SR 10wn A/T 8420440

91 LITEACE 1ST OWNER P130T NEGO TEL-4345576

90 Revo P445T 09217346722

VAN/PICK-UP

2001 Strada, fully loaded, TV, 12cd changer, camper shell w /AC and Japanese Seat, bull bar, ladder, registered /comprehensive Insurance. 725T Call 0920-9003033 •09189422422

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Prado Trooper Surf Delica Town - Lite - Hi Ace etc Finance T-in 712-7539

SPECIAL CARS

02 AUDI A4 Turbo Tiptronic 30tkm T911-1883/84 Rony

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CAR (M/T A/T) VAN (8-15P) T 9300198 4270344

CarsVans ConstorBus 422-9290

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969856

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

LEDC RENT A CAR
CARS & VANS
Call 525-7774 530-8680 5235154

P900/L3 9136710 / 4333682

RENT A VAN
0917-5444721 / 6424405

VANS•CARS•726-8388

Bnew Car Alts Vans 8254068

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES/

Aloe Vera
...the healing plant.
We supply fresh, raw aloe vera for cosmetic, medical, juices and therapeutic preparations.
Call Margie Asuncion at 364-6696; 0915-5710248
or e-mail: aloejoe@atenista.net

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

TOYCO CARS
Udrive W/driver, All kinds: Cars, Vans, SUV • Mla.(02) 800-6595 802-3021 • Cebu (032) 345-1802

ABC RENT A CAR
HI-ACE•STAREX L300•CRV•REVO
HONDA•VIOS•ALTIS•LYNX•CRLA
MLA : 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C.: 426-2278 • 426-4084

CAR LOAN

1.5% Car Loan 5344441

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0361

1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

Pru-Life Coll Edu Plan Ex-Sch 320T Neg. 0917-3395109

HEALTH & BEAUTY

GET BACK INTO SHAPE! w/HERBALIFE #3762613

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost Now:TERMS-7213124

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

Germ Shepherd Fem 11mos Bigbone ShowType Good 4 Breeding • 0917-8516085

MinPin M/F w/Papers Vac Dckd 8Weeks 0920-9105014

Stud GrtDane 09176266182

WANTED TO BUY

"PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE"
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-4567017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8840282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
HI-APPRAISAL/FAST CASH
REPAIR/POLISH ANY WATCH
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ROGELIO P. AYERS was extrajudicially settled and was sold by his heirs as per Doc. No. 395; Page No. 80; Book No. 02; Series of 2005 under Notary Public Atty. Hilarion T. Omadto, Jr.
(PDI-March 21, 28 & April 4, 2005)

PERSONAL

Thank You Holy Spirit From Enrique E. Del Rosario, Jr.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Build Your Global Income Wellness MNC seeks more professionals in Makati City, Manila, China & USA. Pls Call /Text:0927-9167098

GOT A PHONE? EXTRA CASH PT up to P20K/mo. #3762642

L88EDC has TRANSFORMED & CHANGED the lives of many professionals into GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURS. www.L88edc.com

"PEOPLE WHO SUCCEED are those refuse 2 sit back & wish things would change". Are U the type to make things happen? Text 09198867737 if U believe U are.

RTW Consign 09167940002

Unique Cellular Franchise Opportunity 09214134122

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

DOH LIC. THERAPIST
Exp in Swedish, Shiatsu
Sal $300 email CV to:
thal@batelco.com.Bh

Pharmacist 6915513 • 09178512031

SALES MKTG STF 09178451373

SALES REP (074)-446-8644

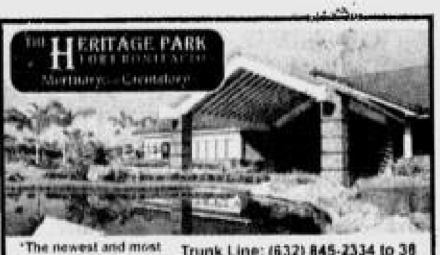
SALES REPS w/Salary & Commission 915-1390 to 98

PARANAQUE

DENTIST Sta. Ana 502-2301

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8978425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925570
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES


THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Mortuary — Crematory

"The newest and most modern Funeral Home & Crematory in the country!

Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38
Direct Line: (632) 845-2440

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

EMILIA ESPIRITU FRANCISCO

of Las Piñas City

(spouse of the late Anastacio T. Francisco) joined her Creator on March 19, 2005 at the age of 81.

Her loving children **Gloria Manalastas (†), Reynaldo Francisco, Benjamin Francisco, Corazon Trono, Josefina Tagle, Teresita Jabal, Ernesto Francisco (†), Melinda Rojales, Rosauro Francisco, Marina Sarao** and in laws, brothers and sisters, grandchildren and great grandchildren and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Philamlife Parish Church, Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, March 22, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at Las Piñas Catholic Cemetery.

"My Shepherd is the Lord...
Nothing indeed shall I want."

Our Dearly Beloved

RUFINA "PINANG" R. PROTACIO

has gone back to her Creator on Saturday, March 19, 2005.

Her beloved Sisters **VALENTINA (Tinay)** and **BRIGIDA (Idang)**, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and in-laws, commend her spirit to the Lord, and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence, at 2277 J. Luna Cor. Dancel Sts., Pasay City. Interment will be on Thursday, March 24, 2005 at the Pasay Cemetery (Sgt. Mariano), after the 9:00 a.m. Memorial Service at the Iglesia Ng Dios Kay Kristo Hesus (IDKH) Chapel, Tramo St., Pasay City.

In Loving Memory

On the 1st Death Anniversary of

CARLO PATRICCI D. PASCUAL

March 18, 1977- March 21, 2004

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches:

Carmel of the Divine Infant Jesus of Prague, Angeles City	6:00 AM
Sacred Heart Chapel, Angeles City	6:30 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish, Marikina City	7:00 AM
San Sebastian Cathedral, Tarlac City	7:00 AM
Immaculate Concepcion Parish Church, Angeles City	7:00 AM
Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows, Quezon City	7:00 AM
Holy Rosary Parish, Angeles City	8:30 AM
St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susana Parish, Alabang City	12:15 PM
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Chapel, Cardinal Santos Medical Center, Greenhills, San Juan	5:15 PM
Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:00 PM
St. John Bosco Parish, Arnaiz St., Makati City	6:00 PM
St. Jude Parish, San Miguel, Manila	6:00 PM
Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Dao St., Makati City	6:00 PM
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan	6:00 PM
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Bel-Air II Makati City	6:30 PM

His family and relatives request the readers, specially the lives he had touched, to pray for the repose of his soul.

"I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except
through Me."

John 14:6

Our Dearly Beloved

Mamang

MARIA NOLASCO ABADILLA

of Banna, Ilocos Norte

Peacefully joined our Lord, her husband, ***Vicente C. Abadilla*** *and her son,* ***Col. Rolando N. Abadilla*** *at the age of 89 last Saturday, March 19, 2005.*

Her bereaved children, **Carlito, Ofelia, Marietta, Estelita, Jaime** and **Baby**, together with their respective husbands and wives, grandchildren and great grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Landas Center, Sta. Maria della Strada, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to her home town on Tuesday, March 22, 2005.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 27, 2005 at Banna, Ilocos Norte.

DEUSDEDIT B. QUIJANO

Former Assistant Solicitor General
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL

Peacefully joined our Lord
on March 19, 2005 at the age of 76.

His bereaved wife **Tita**; sons **Noel** and **Robert**, brother, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the Chapel Garden Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on March 22, 2005 at the HIMLAYANG PILIPINO, TANDANG SORA, QUEZON CITY at 3:00 p.m. after the 12:00 noon Mass.

In Loving Remembrance
of the First Death Anniversary of

Marcial "Chelin" Estagle, Jr.

July 19, 1951 – March 21, 2004
LSGH – '69

TO THOSE I LOVE & THOSE WHO LOVE ME
Anonymous

When I am gone, release me, and let me go...
I have so many things to see and do
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears
Be happy that we had so many years.

I gave you my love. You can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness,
I thank you for the love we each have shown
But now it's time I travel alone.

So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust...

It's only for a while that we must part
So bless the memories within your heart.

I won't be far away, for life goes on...
So if you need me, call and I will come
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near...
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear
All my love around you soft and clear.

And then, when you must come this way alone.
I'll greet you with a smile and say "Welcome Home."

Holy Masses will be offered today at the following:

St. James the Great, Parish Church	*12:15 p.m. Ayala Alabang Village*
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal National Shrine	*6:15 a.m. Posadas Village, Sucat*
St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri Parish Church	*6:00 p.m. Magallanes Village*

A loving husband to Agnes, loving father to Chino & Chinee, loving son to Mars + & Teli+ loving brother to Stella, Joey, Marcia, & Tina, loving son-in-law to Gras & Belle, loving brother-in-law to Joselito+, Tessie, Boy, Hector, Gener & Letty, Grace & Francis, Gerry & Rinna, Joey & Milette, & Gatchie & Tere.

We, his family, thank BCBP, relatives, friends & pious readers who joined us in prayers for his eternal repose.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

CLASSIFIEDS

AUCTION

www.henrybutcher.com

On the instructions of William Golangco Construction Corporation

2-DAY SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

At.: 10 Calle Industria, Libis, Quezon City
On: Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th April 2005 - 10:30am

CRANES & HANDLING EQUIPMENT; CONCRETE EQUIPMENT; SERVICE VEHICLES; TOOLS; CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, ETC.

In over 1000 lots including: -

CRANES & HANDLING EQUIPMENT - P&H Omega 100 22T cap. S/N 53792 R.T. Hydraulic Crane; LINDEN L5102, (2) LINDEN L5052 Climbing Tower Cranes; KROLL K100 Climbing Tower Crane; (4) TUMAC Liftmaster MKII 1000 kgs (12 person) cap. Passenger Elevators; HYUNDAI HSL-600 Skid Steer Loader; CATERPILLAR 3T cap. Forklift; (2) Mini Dump Trucks; (4) WINGET Dumpers
CONCRETE EQUIPMENT - PUTZMEISTER BSA 1406-EMD S/N 21950104554 Diesel Concrete Pump; (5) INTERNATIONAL Paymaster 5000 w/ Detroit 6L-71-N Diesel Engine; (2) INTERNATIONAL Paymaster 5000 w/ Cummins PT 240 Diesel Engine Transit Mixers 7.5cu. m. Drum Cap.; Concrete Pouring Pipe; (5) Single Bag Mixers
SERVICE VEHICLES - ISUZU Intercooler L280 10 Wheeler Dropside Truck; ISUZU 6 Wheeler Dropside Trucks; Trailer Mounted Water Tanks
TOOLS & EQUIPMENT - (4) FORD/GM Generators (45 to 156KVA); Asstd. Trailer Mounted Air Compressors; Submersible/Engine Driven Pumps; Chain Blocks; Hook Blocks; Oxy/Acetylene Sets; Rebar Cutters; Concrete Cutters; Mobile Lubricant Dispensers; Tamping Rammers; Bottle/Mechanical Jacks; Battery Chargers; Asstd. Welders; Blowers; Power Trowels; Asstd. Dry Type Step-up Transformers; High Pressure Washers; A Large Qty. of Hand/Power Tools; Wire Rope; Asstd. Surveying Equipment, Material/Laboratory Testing Instruments, etc.
CONSUMABLES - Electric Cable; Fasteners; Toilet Bowls; Urinals; Bath Tubs; Asstd. Paints/Chemicals; PVC, Copper, Stainless Steel Pipes; Channeling; Angle Bar; Asstd. U-Beam, Strainers; Couplings; Connectors; Wyes; Tees; Elbows; Asstd. Valves; Window Glass; Door Jambs/Frames; Insulation; Asstd. Valves; Chicken Wire; Electric Light Fittings; Rubber Matting; Ceramic/Marble Tiles; Plywood Sheet; Drainage Systems; Gabions & Mattress Materials
MISCELLANEOUS - A Large Qty. of Imported/Local Steel Scaffolding; Automotive Spare Parts; Asstd. Electric Motors; Vertical/Horizontal Water Storage Tanks; Office Furniture & Equipment; Window Type Air conditioners

On View: Saturday 2nd & Monday, 4th April 2005 - 9:00am to 5:00pm
and mornings of sale days
Refundable Deposit: Php20,000 (upon registration)
Please bring valid ID to be presented during registration

PLEASE NOTE: NO SLIPPERS/SANDALS, NO SLEEVELESS SHIRTS, NO SHORTS, NO SMOKING, NO VIDEO/CAMERA, NO CHILDREN - WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE AUCTION PREMISES
PLEASE CONTACT THE AUCTIONEERS OFFICE FOR MORE DETAILS

For further information please contact Obert Cinco at Tel: 852 2910 loc. 109
Email: obert.cinco@henrybutcher.com

GoIndustry Henry Butcher
HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES [illegible]
[illegible]

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

JOB Market ONLINE

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

---

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee- Head Office, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites BSP / G-EPS registered companies/contractors and other interested suppliers for the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of:

Five (5) units Walk-thru Metal Detector for use of BSP Security Plant Complex

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC): P 4,125,000.00
Delivery Period: Within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of Purchase Order
Bid documents are available from March 15, 2005 to April 5, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2, 100.00 at the following:

BAC Secretariat
Rm. 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building
Cor. A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Sts., Malate, Manila
Tel. No(s). 524-8717 / 523-1321

Pre-Bid Date and Time: April 8, 2005 at 3:00 PM
Bidding Date and Time: April 20, 2005 not later than 10:00 AM
Place: Room MR2A, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, Malate, Manila

Interested bidders shall submit not later than the bidding date and time the following documents in three (3) separate envelopes:

Envelope No. 1:

1. Articles of Incorporation, Business Registration Papers and Company Profile
2. Y2003 Audited Financial Statements (Income Statement & Balance Sheet)
3. Y2003 Income Tax Return duly stamped/received by the Bureau of Internal Revenue or its authorized Agent Banks or a Certified True Copy of the Income Tax Return issued by the Revenue District Officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue concerned (for electronic filing)
4. Taxpayer's Identification Number (photocopy of the TIN Card)
5. Valid and current Mayor's Permit/Municipal License, if not available, Y2005 Official Receipt as proof of payment.
6. Prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC)* which shall be at least equal to the ABC, duly signed by the authorized signing official and supported with pertinent documents, i.e., financial statements and copies of on-going project contracts; or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate valid for at least one (1) month reckoned from April 1, 2005. The commitment or cash deposit certificate shall be in an amount not lower than 10% of the ABC.
   *NFCC=[(Current assets-Current liabilities) (K)]
   minus value of all outstanding projects, K=10
7. Sworn statement that the prospective bidder is not blacklisted from bidding in any Government Office, Agency, Corporation
8. Letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative to verify any or all of the documents submitted for eligibility check
9. Sworn certification by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original.
10. Affidavit of the prospective bidder that he or she or any officer of their corporation is not related to the head of the procuring entity by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.
11. Certificate of authorized dealership or distributorship from the manufacturer
12. Certificate of quality assurance from the product manufacturer (e.g. ISO, BVI and other reputable standard issuing authority).
13. Certification from the Manufacturer attesting full support in supplying spare parts, accessories, and related items of the equipment (for at least five (5) years or more after its delivery), as well as after sales service.
14. Sworn certification from the bidders indicating that they have an authorized technical service center located within Metro Manila, Philippines with complete spare parts, equipment tools and trained technicians
15. List of at least two (2) satisfied clients with similar completed project, each amounting to 50% of ABC. The list should include the name/s of the contact person, address, email address and telephone / fax numbers.
16. List and information on personnel who will be fully/partially involved in the project including photocopy of the certificate of training of said personnel from the manufacturer of the equipment

Envelope No. 2:

1. Instructions to Bidders
2. Duly accomplished Certification/Undertaking
3. Original Bid Security
4. Original brochures and technical data sheet

Envelope No. 3:

Price Proposal with attached detailed cost breakdown

All envelopes shall be dropped in the bid box located at Room MR2A, 5-Storey Bldg., BSP Main Complex

LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

The BSP assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not to award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd) MELPIN A. GONZAGA
Vice-Chairman

(PDI-March 21, 2005)

GIA®

Thailand Campus

Learn from the world's foremost authority in gemology
70+ year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide

Gain professionalism with gems
From the world's foremost authority

Colored Stones Diploma Program
starts May 9, 2005

GIA Thailand Campus

Bisco Tower-12th Fl., 56/12 Sub Rd., Bangrak, Bangkok Thailand
Tel: (662) 237-9575 / 77
Fax: (662) 236-9829
giathai@ksc.th.com
www.giathailand.com

Ateneo CORD offers Managing Human Capital program

THE ATENEO Center for Organization Research & Development (Ateneo CORD) is inviting organization to their training program for Managing Human Capital on April 13- 15, at the Ateneo CORD Training Room. Program Description: The Managing Human Capital is a short course designed to provide line managers and beginners in the HR field with a basic understanding of Human Resources Management. At the end of the program participants to come up with a systems map of their organization. The modules are: Module I: Strategic Human Resources Management (Day 1); Module III: Employee Selection (Day 1 &2); Module IV: Performance and Rewards Management (Day 2); Module V: Employee Development (Day 2 &3); Module VI: Employee Relations and Well-Being (Day 3). Total program fee: P 10,000 (Corp) and P 7,000 (Noncorp) The Noncorp fee applies to individuals employed in the Government, NGO, Academe or Religious Institutions. Fee includes food and training materials. If you would like to make reservations, kindly download the attached registration form: http://www.ateneocord.org/application%20form2005.doc

LIBERALIZATION EFFORTS

RP to grow 5% in '05, Deutsche Bank says

By Doris C. Dumlao

DEUTSCHE Bank expects the Philippine economy to grow by over 5 percent this year.

Deutsche Bank head for regional management Juergen Fitschen, who was in town recently to grace the 10th year anniversary celebration of the German lender's full service branch in the Philippines, said continuing efforts by the government to further open up the economy to foreign participation—in areas such as the mining industry and the proposed privatization of the energy sector—were sending positive signals.

"Increased foreign investment levels have a definite medium to longer-term benefit for the Philippines: it can help reduce debt, free up capital for other important initiatives, and further open up the economy allowing for greater efficiencies. These opportunities are also appealing to international investors," Fitschen said.

The bank's economic growth outlook is in line with the Philippine government's own growth target this year of 5.3-6.3 percent.

Fitschen added that the government's intent to sell some of its shareholdings could attract the attention of investors.

He said financial reform was in progress and that recent fiscal measures taken were important steps toward balancing the current fiscal shortfall.

"Deutsche Bank is confident that the overall reform program will continue, which should have the benefit of generating more revenue, improving infrastructure, strengthening the banking system, and further developing domestic capital markets," he said.

He said the recent downgrade of the Philippines' sovereign rating amply reflected underlying risk fundamentals, which had now begun to recover.

"We now expect ratings to stabilize, and eventually take on an upward bias," the banker said.

He said one of the most exciting developments in the Philippines was the development of the local bond market.

"I think this could have great benefits for individual companies and state bodies, in that it will help reduce currency risk and could lead to lower borrowing costs. It will also allow for a platform for the effective hedging of interest rate risk which is important," he said.

Fitschen said Deutsche Bank was dedicating resources and capital to support the development of the local bond market.

Gov't not in a hurry to sign US trade pact

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT is not about to rush into a bilateral trade pact with the United States considering rising trade opportunities with Asian neighbors, according to Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos.

Santos said the Department of Trade and Industry and the business sector were still weighing the benefits of entering into a free trade agreement with the United States.

"We are not in a hurry," Santos said.

The DTI was weighing its options as there were concerns raised that the FTA would affect trade relations with Asian partners.

Santos said Japan has become the country's biggest export market, with 20 percent of total Philippine exports sent to the East Asian economic powerhouse.

Santos said the country's trade activities with neighbors in the region had been rising following moves toward economic integration in Southeast Asia and continuing talks on FTAs.

He said that in 2002, the US accounted for 29 percent of Philippine exports but that this went down to 17 percent.

Santos added that exports to "Greater China"—the mainland, Taiwan and Hong Kong—also accounted for a fifth of total exports.

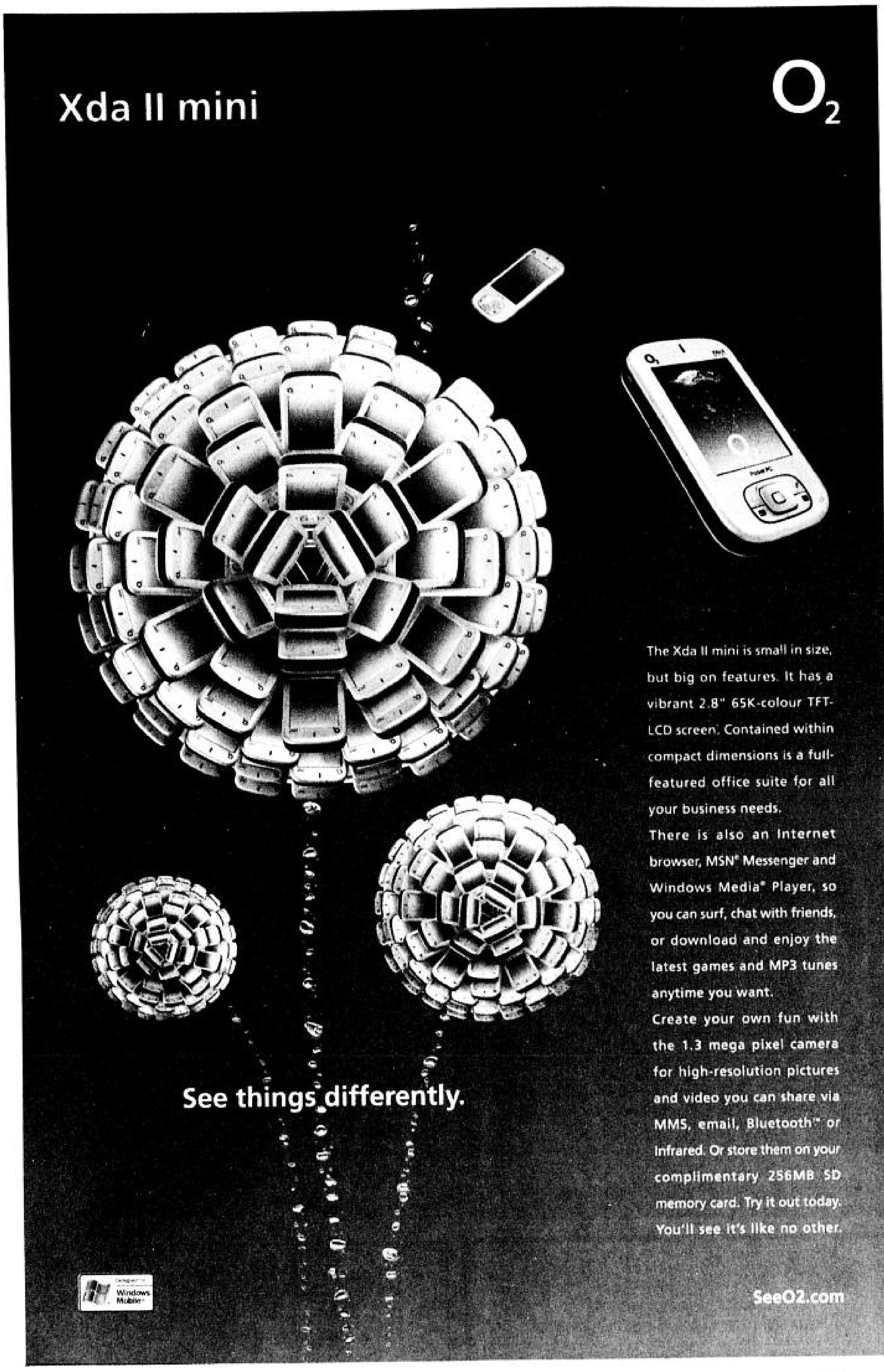
He said this showed a trend of diversification in the country's export market.

"This relative shift is expected to continue and even intensify with the continuing integration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations," Santos said.

Last week, US Assistant Trade Representative Barbara Weisel was quoted as saying the Philippines should consider entering into an FTA with the world's largest economy to maintain its relative competitiveness in the region and in the world.

Weisel said the US was willing to take time that was needed to conclude an agreement.

In an earlier interview, Bureau of International Trade Relations Director Ramon V. Kabigting said the country's strategy on FTAs was to stick with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as an economic bloc.

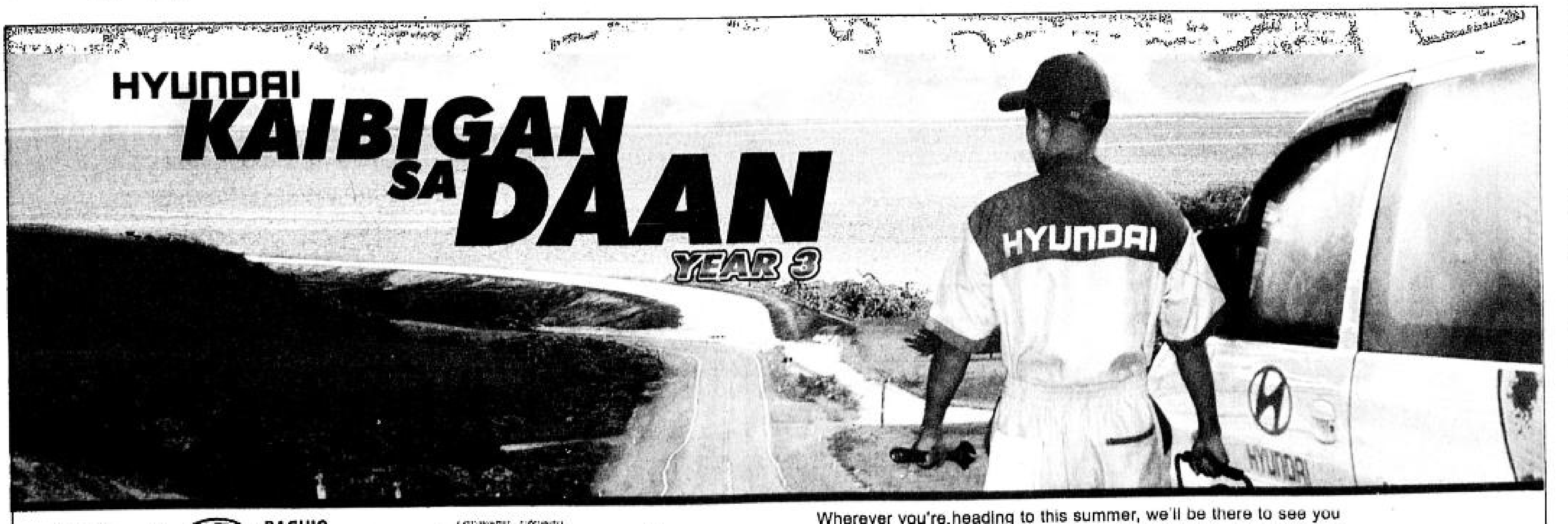

Xda II mini

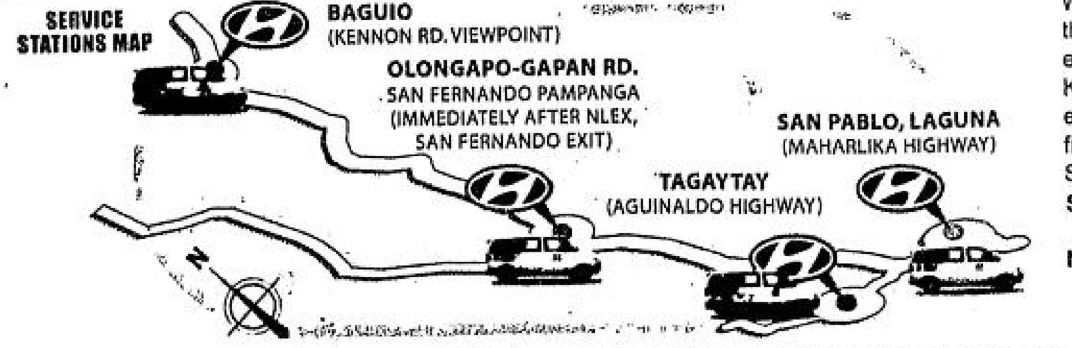
O2

The Xda II mini is small in size, but big on features. It has a vibrant 2.8" 65K-colour TFT-LCD screen. Contained within compact dimensions is a full-featured office suite for all your business needs.
There is also an Internet browser, MSN® Messenger and Windows Media® Player, so you can surf, chat with friends, or download and enjoy the latest games and MP3 tunes anytime you want.
Create your own fun with the 1.3 mega pixel camera for high-resolution pictures and video you can share via MMS, email, Bluetooth™ or Infrared. Or store them on your complimentary 256MB SD memory card. Try it out today. You'll see it's like no other.

SeeO2.com

• Microsoft® Windows Mobile™ 2003 PocketPC Phone Edition 2nd Edition • Intel® PXA 272 Bulverde CPU • 64MB SDRAM, 64MB ROM • Pocket Outlook®, ClearVue™ PDF & PPT, Pocket Internet Explorer, MSN® Messenger, Active Sync® • Bluetooth® • Infrared • Tri-band • GPRS • MMS, SMS • Java™ • MMC/SDIO card slot • Microphone & loudspeaker • Supports MIDI, WAV, WMA & MP3 formats





Wherever you're heading to this summer, we'll be there to see you through. Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI), the country's exclusive distributor of Hyundai vehicles, brings you once more KAIBIGAN SA DAAN, a roadside assistance service offering free emergency towing, labor and check-up. This summer, you've got a friend on the road: Check us out in the following SHELL Gasoline Stations from March 23–27, 2005.

SOUTH – Tagaytay (Aguinaldo Highway) and San Pablo, Laguna (Maharlika Highway)

NORTH – Baguio (Kennon Road Viewpoint) and Olongapo-Gapan Road, San Fernando Pampanga (Immediately after NLEX, San Fernando Exit)

HYUNDAI
Drive your way™

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

McDo chief wants to make chain as Pinoy as 'adobo'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

YANG with McDonald's mascot Ronald McDonald

IF KENNETH Yang had his way, McDonald's would become as Filipino as *adobo*.

That is his game plan, now that he heads the all-Filipino management team running the McDonald's franchise here.

The 39-year-old Yang is confident he has what it takes to be attuned to what Filipinos want from the world's biggest fast-food chain, having worked for the company with the golden arches since it first served hamburgers, French fries and apple pie here in 1981.

"It was my first job. I worked part-time as one of the crew during my high school and college years. I wanted it. I thought it was a nice way to learn the business and meet new friends," Yang tells SundayBiz.

Yang adds it was while working as an ordinary crewmember that the seeds of running a business were planted in his mind.

"My early lessons included dealing with all kinds of people and the importance of satisfying the needs of customers, especially in the food business," he says.

He hung up his crew hat to finish college studies at the Ateneo de Manila University. He later took up his MBA at the University of Chicago.

When he came back, he wanted to continue working for McDonald's.

Yang says he was not pressured by his father, George, to

MCDO/B2-2

Cut petty corruption via e- kiosks

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

A FAMOUS equation on corruption goes this way: Corruption = Monopoly + Discretion - Transparency. More monopoly or personal discretion leads to more corruption, while transparency lessens corruption.

Take a look at discretion. Suppose a clerk at city hall is given the power to set whatever fee he wants for different people applying for business permits. That will bloat his intake of grease money. Hence it is common for lowly bureaucrats to leave open their desk drawers.

Reverse the premise. For a set fee, documents are released automatically via computer printouts. Clerks do not have to make any decisions. Goodbye to one source of petty corruption.

Kudos to the NBI

The closest we have to this is probably the kiosks of the National Bureau of Investigation. Those who want to renew their NBI clearances go to certain malls (e.g. SM Megamall) and simply fall in line. After paying the fee, the applicant submits his or her old clearance to the counter. The number is typed into the computer which is linked to the central database.

In seconds the applicant's record is retrieved electronically and printed out. The process is finished in less than 30 minutes. No discretion, little waiting time, and no need to go to the NBI office.

100 services offered

Can the kiosk concept be expanded? The Philippines has much to learn from the electronic kiosks of India, particularly the e-seva centers. E-governance initiatives differ from state to state, but their common service, and the most useful, is the e-seva center.

Each center is open to the general public. It is a computerized kiosk that can handle more than 100 services, ranging from getting birth certificates, to paying examination fees, to buying tickets to cultural events.

Utility areas served by e-seva are many, such as electricity, municipal corporations, urban development, transport, civil supplies, hospitals, water supply and railways. It includes specific services such as metering, billing, issuing drivers' licenses, railway ticket reservations and land registration.

Remove middlemen, papers

By making transactions digital, the government gets to eliminate layers of middlemen, who exercise discretion. Putting data in the public domain also increases transparency and makes agencies more accountable.

Such e-governance sites drastically cut down the citizen's paper work and waiting time. They lessen the load of government employees. In brief, public services can be run much more efficiently when transactions are digitized.

It brings government to ordinary citizens. With the advent of e-governance, citizens can easily link up with the various agencies through the kiosks. The program was formed to bridge the digital divide: e-seva provides access to various citizen-to-citizen (C2C) and citizen-to-government (C2G) services to common folk.

E-seva is run by the various state governments of India. In Andra Pradesh state alone, there are more than 400 e-seva kiosks. For the entire nation, the number is 7,000 kiosks in poor areas alone. They cover both the cities and the rural areas. The state governments of India are rolling out many digital initiatives, following the general push for ICT enterprise development.

Kiosks lessen bribes

Are the e-seva kiosks decreasing corruption? A survey of 4,500 respondents, run by of the Centre for Media Studies (CMS), covered 5 major cities to find out: Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai. It compared the years 2003 with 2000.

The CMS survey results showed a remarkable drop in corruption, especially that committed by middlemen because of the advent of the e-seva centers. Overall:

- Use of middlemen: from 48 percent in 2000, down to 28 percent in 2003.
- Giving of bribes: from 51 percent in 2000, down to 30 percent in 2003.

In Hyderabad, where e-seva centers are most widespread, the presence of middlemen plunged to 27 percent from the former 63 percent. In Kolkata, corruption fell from 51 percent to only 19 percent. In Chennai, the drop was from 38 percent to 18 percent.

The impact on urban development was very positive. Many gains were seen in other concerns such as civil supplies, hospitals, electricity and water supplies. The city of Hyderabad has eliminated middlemen to a large extent, though not completely.

Helping the poor

It used to be costly and difficult for farmers to get their land titles, so they had a hard time

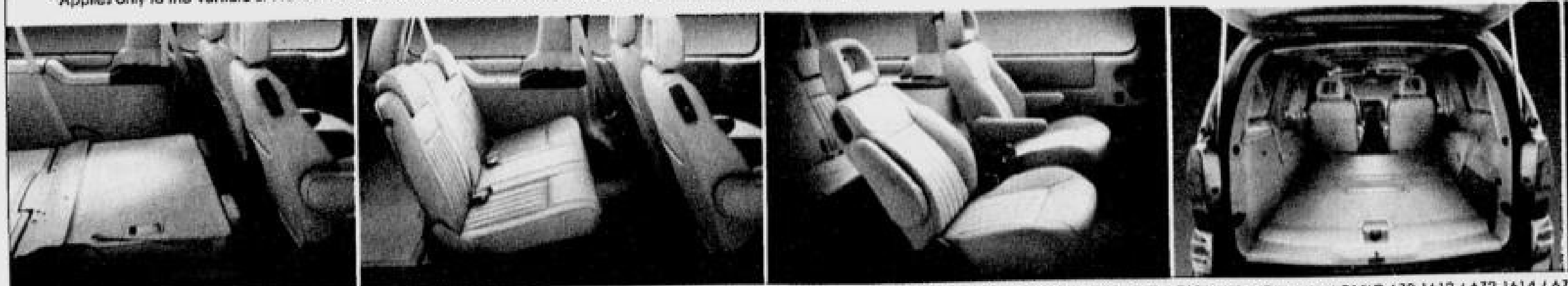
CUT/B2-2

Chevrolet Venture.
First class travel for seven
from only P199,000
down payment.*

Or an affordable monthly fee of P11,804.**
- Free Periodic Maintenance for 2 years or 30,000 kms with parts and labor.
- P20,000 worth of free gas.*

*Applies only to the Venture LT Premium. **For 72 months based on 50% down payment for the Venture LT Premium.

Contact Chevrolet or GM Autoworld now at 1.800.1888.4646.
PROMO PERIOD: Feb. 22 to March 31, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0953 Series of 2005.



I am CHEVROLET

GM Autoworld MAKATI 867.8183 to 87 / 894.1976 • GM Autoworld QUEZON AVE. 374.1250 to 59 • GM Autoworld SHAW 535.4944 / 533.8375 / 533.1263 / 533.6349 • Chevrolet PASIG 672.1612 / 672.1614 / 672.1486 • Chevrolet ALABANG 771.1206 to 09
Chevrolet PAMPANGA (045) 963.3333 • GM Autoworld CEBU (032) 234.0426 • Chevrolet DAVAO (082) 300.7777 / (082) 235.3811 • Chevrolet NORTH EDSA 374.9992 to 97/374.9963 • Chevrolet CAGAYAN DE ORO (08822) 722.999 / (088) 857.9999

Everytime you
Save...
BANCO DE ORO

Illusions about Terminal-3

MAPping THE FUTURE

Avelino L. Zapanta

MUCH controversy surrounds the still unopened T3. Time and energy are wasted in the pursuit of illusions that could only lead to a rude awakening and possibly an impending national embarrassment: for pinning so much hope on a facility that might never be.

In June 2005 the Filipino people is expecting to have a not-so-brand new passenger air terminal although undisputedly still unused to date. The administration is seemingly bent on meeting the committed date, and that's the easy part. Problem is, the country might have a superficially beautiful terminal without any airline operating in it, pretty much the situation as it is already, today.

There is nothing the author wishes more than seeing the terminal operating for indeed it would be such a waste if it simply ends in obsolescence without having been used at all. But it is the stark reality that surrounds T3 of which the people is up against.

Structural design

These realities concern the structural design of T3 in relation to the operational needs of one of the very users of the facilities, the airlines.

T3 in the first place was built on the wrong side of the runway. It is the only commercial aviation structure on its side of the runway and all the rest are on the other side. It is not a simple matter of crossing the runway to access the other side. Crossing runways is not allowed as a general rule of commercial aviation for the sake of safety and security. Access must be under the runway, meaning a tunnel or a lateral access road going around the runway. Neither the tunnel nor the access road is in place today. And it is not possible to have either, or desirably both, within the three-month period still available before June. By our track record in public works it appears to be an impossible task to have either or both facilities by June. The only miracle of a construction people might recall was when a former First Lady built a Film Arts Center in three months to catch up with a Miss Universe Pageant but everyone knows the kind of blood, sweat and tears the country paid for that rushed construction.

Access is imperative

Access is imperative or no airline would operate in T3. While the airline is a high profile industry, the airlines make very thin margins if at all they do. The industry papers are replete with news of airlines that have gone *kaput* or on the verge of bankruptcies if not already there. The margins come from the cargoes stuffed in the belly of the aircraft and the feeds of traffic, both passengers and cargoes from other airlines including the domestic operators. Without the tunnel or the access road, there is no way airlines can bring the cargoes from the belly of the aircraft to the cargo warehouse and vice-versa. There is also now way of shuttling the passengers between the domestic terminals and T3. Realize that all the cargo terminals/warehouses and domestic passenger terminals are on the other side of the runway. The cargo terminals are very far. Most of them line up the Ninoy Aquino Avenue in Parañaque quite distant from Villamor. There are conceivably two possible routes to choose from (1) the perimeter road that goes around the aerodrome skirting the fences that separate it from the subdivisions of Parañaque or (2) the public roads from Ninoy Aquino Avenue to International Road, Domestic Road, Andrews Avenue, Manlunas Road and Sales Road to T3. The airlines' tugs and pallet/container dollies will simply breakdown if brought to these roads. They have small wheels designed for operation on flat areas, i.e. the tarmac. Furthermore, one flight alone would require a convoy of pallet/container dollies anywhere from 10 to 20 depending on the aircraft configuration. At peak hours there would be some 50 flights, which means 500 to 1000 such dollies in convoy moving at snail pace of 5 kmh. Try to imagine the congestion it would create on the perimeter road or the public road. Add to these the passenger shuttle buses for connecting domestic/international passengers, the catering trucks, the ground handlers' other operationally required vehicles and machines. Even the proposed access road is not desirable for this same problem. For this reason, the airlines prefer the tunnel but that was the first item deleted by Piatco and the government in the very first amendment of the contract. Needless to say, without the cargo and the connecting traffic, the airlines' thin margins would go up in smoke. They would choose to quit Manila rather than sustain a losing operation.

Simultaneous transfer

The airlines are interdependent with each other so transfer of operation must be simultaneous for all. The Naia idea of a piece-meal transfer is not workable for the airlines, as they have already expressed in the media. Without the others operating in the same terminal, the interlining of traffic becomes impractical. Without it, the airlines' margins are affected. This set-up also assumes split operations of two international terminals thus splitting resources and manpower of government, e.g. Immigration, Customs, security details and so forth, the inefficiencies of which would reflect on the airlines' services.

The local airlines' managements simply will not commence the process of transfer unless they have approval from Headquarters. Headquarters on the other hand will simply not approve construction at T3 and eventual transfer unless they have signed contracts and assurance of protection of law. The mere public threats of the Piatco lawyers that the airlines would be dragged into the legal tussle are sufficient to create concerns among the airlines' managements.

Forcing the airlines on the other hand to transfer to T3, as suggested by some quarters, will never work. Many of the airlines would choose to quit the country than sustain losses and be dragged into conflicts they can do without. To some airlines Manila represents a marginal operation that it would be much easier for them to decide to quit rather than be dictated upon. There are far better alternative destinations without the hassle, e.g. China.

The above are but a few of the realities that will prevent actual use of T3. There are many more such as the unresolved legal issues, the air traffic congestion that could ensue since T3 is likely to kill one of only two of Naia's runways, the level of charges the issues of which are already in the media. Already, the fact that the Naia runway/taxiway separation might be structurally limited for the A380, the world's forthcoming largest commercial aircraft, dictates the need for mapping the future. Perhaps the government will be better off developing, as had been the original plan, the DMIA in Clark, which has the most of the desirable attributes for a gateway except that the planned links with Manila through rapid transit systems also fell on the by-way. It is perhaps time to pick the pieces up and head for the right direction. But that is another story.

(The author is an author, a publisher and an aviation consultant. He is the former president of Philippine Air Lines. Feedback at map@globenet.com.ph)

What you need to know to Fast Track your career or change it?

On March 30th 2005, don't miss the opportunity to hear distinguished Lasallians share success factors to getting ahead in your career.

What is the "Fast Track Career Forum" all about?

While this is not a job fair, you may use this forum to network with fellow Lasallians. You have a choice of an afternoon or an evening session to exchange views on what it takes to:

1. Find a better job 2. Get a promotion. 3. Have a successful second career.

"Special Students' Rate (First-come, First-served) As low as: 1 session: P300, Two sessions: P500"

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS*

Afternoon Session
(Start: 1:30pm End: 4:30pm)
1. Lito Tanjuatco, President - DLSAA
2. Br. Armin A. Luistro, FSC President - DLSU, "Forum Opening Remarks"
3. Rene J. Buenaventura, CEO - Equitable PCIB, Keynote Speaker
4. Ramon Isberto, Head Public Affairs - Smart, "Communicate Effectively or Be Left Behind"
5. Juan Miguel del Rosario, VP HR - Unit. Pulp and Paper Co. Inc., "Have Emotional Intelligence, Have a Great Career"
6. Franz Pumaren, Basketball Coach - DLSU, "Down but Not Out: Career Applications from the 2004 DLSU Basketball Championship Team"

Evening Session
(Start: 5:00 pm End: 8:00 pm)
1. Dr. Carmelita I. Quebengco, EVP - DLSU, "Opening Remarks"
2. Franco del Rosario, CEO - 6Sigma Consulting, "The Single Biggest Thing That Can Help or Hinder Your Career"
3. James Matti, CEO Ayala AON, "It is the Minor Details which Lead to the Major League!"
4. Gerard Sanvictores, SGV Partner, "The 3 Musts Executives Look For In Candidates"
5. Boy Martinez, Head Per. Comm. & Mob. Services Smart, "The Fastest Way To Become The Chief Marketing Officer"

*subject to change without prior notice

Supported by:
THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC!

"FAST TRACK YOUR CAREER OR CHANGE IT"

HOSTED BY: Liberal Arts Chapter
De La Salle Alumni Association (DLSAA)

WHEN: Wednesday, March 30, 2005
WHERE: Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, de la Costa corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
REGISTRATION DETAILS
1. Early Bird Rate (payment no later than March 23rd): P600.00 per person per session. An additional P100.00 per person per session discount for group registrations (minimum of 4 persons)
2. Regular rate: P800.00 per person per session.
3. Pay into Standard Chartered Bank Acct No. 01325631480001.
Account Name: De la Salle Alumni Association- Liberal Arts Chapter

* Please fax proof of payment to fax number 809-8074

FAX THIS TO 809-8074 EVEN IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND! YOU WILL BE ADVISED OF FUTURE DLSAA ACTIVITIES.

(PRINT) Full Name	Cell Phone	Telephone	E-mail address
(PRINT) Full Name	Cell Phone	Telephone	E-mail address
(PRINT) Full Name	Cell Phone	Telephone	E-mail address

Registration/Questions
CALL: 523-6158, 526-5612, 524-4611 loc. 128
FAX: 809-8074
TEXT: (0920)96-SIGMA
E-MAIL: francodelrosario@hotmail.com

*We welcome La Salle alumni interested to be speakers in future career forums.
Please e-mail or fax your bio-data to the above contact information.

Cut petty corruption . . .

From page B2-1

selling their lots or getting credit. So in Karnataka state, the government has digitized 20 million land deeds. Today the farmers can get copies of them through 200 kiosks, paying just 30 cents for the service. For the whole of India, digitizing the titles has prevented fraud to the tune of $20 million.

The Philippines can help fight petty corruption by computerizing public chores. Digitize documents, automate transactions and deploy kiosks to many areas.

McDo chief wants to make . . .

From page B2-1

pass up other lucrative job opportunities for the chance to join the company here.

He says doing so was his choice since he saw the company grow from the first outlet in Morayta.

He first joined the purchasing department. From there, he worked his way up to become top executive after McDonald's became a Filipino-run company.

It has been over a year since the Filipinos took over, and Yang says the franchise never had it so good.

Sales have been on the rise as more products were put on the menu, and more branches opened.

The 300th store in Zamboanga City was opened late last month, and it has already sold over P1 million worth of products.

McDonald's took a more aggressive approach toward marketing and many of the stores were given a fresh, new look.

Service was further improved and systems tightened to set the stage for further growth.

"Having an all-Filipino management team makes it easier to communicate with each other. Having good communication makes it easier to make decisions," Yang says.

It was not that easy when the Americans held the reins of management.

Although Filipinos were more than adept at the language, there remained cultural and psychological barriers that made it difficult for the company to take big, bold steps.

The new management is prepared to take those steps now.

Yang says there are plans to put up at least 20 more stores this year.

It is still a long way behind the rival fast-food restaurant, but Yang prefers to take an aggressive, but at the same time conservative, stance.

"We want to concentrate more on quality, rather than quantity. We are not going to put up stores for the sake of just putting up one," Yang says.

Yang says he also wants to put more focus on bringing the McDonald's brand closer to the hearts of ordinary Filipinos.

There was a time, he says, when McDonald's was perceived to be an American brand that only catered to the Filipino elite. Not anymore.

"We want McDonald's to be part of the ordinary Filipino's lives. I want it to be more relevant to them and not thought of just as a foreigner brand. I believe we are already doing that," Yang says.

MCDONALD'S believes in partnerships to help RP.

Doing so not only means providing the best service and the best food, Yang says, but is also about being a good corporate citizen that gives back what it can to the community and to its people.

Through the Ronald McDonald House Charities, McDonald's invested in Bahay Bulilit day care centers run by the Department of Social Welfare and Development; housing projects through Gawad Kalinga and the Bright Minds Read campaign in partnership with the the Department of Education.

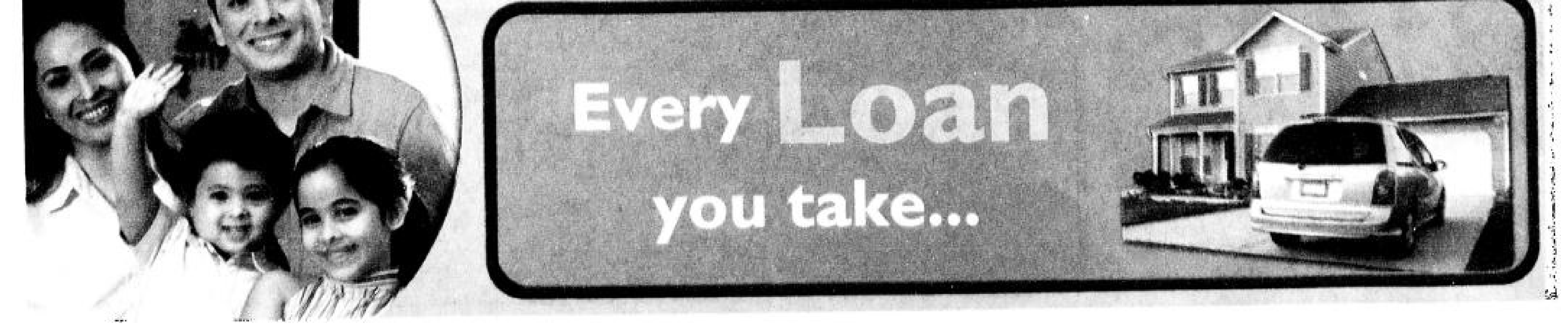
"Being involved in these projects help us open our eyes to the needs of the country and I believe it is every good company's obligation to give back to the community and the country," he says.

Yang also believes that McDonald's takes good care of its employees, as its crew is treated as a regular employee—not contractual like other fast food chains—thus, entitled to company benefits.

Dealing with the young staff, he says, is one of the best things about his job, one that he would not trade for another, despite the daunting challenges that lie ahead.

"I like the fact that this is dynamic and fast-paced. I also like the fact that I work with young people and always finding ways to be in touch with customers," he says.

Those customers, he says, will hopefully look at McDonald's as an American, but very much Filipino at heart.



German bank optimistic on Manila

FROM left are Juergen Fitschen, Rafael Buenaventura, Cesar Purisima, German Ambassador Axel Weishaupt, Kenneth Borda, Deutsche Bank CEO for Asia Pacific and Enrico Cruz.

DEUTSCHE Bank kicked-off its 10th anniversary in the Philippines at a gala dinner in Manila. The evening was hosted by Enrico Cruz, Deutsche Bank's chief country officer for the Philippines, Kenneth C. Borda, chief executive officer of Deutsche Bank Asia Pacific (excluding Japan) and Juergen Fitschen, head of Worldwide Regional Management and group executive member at Deutsche Bank.

Present were Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura, Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima and executives of big Philippine corporations.

"The close relationships that have been built in the Philippines are very much valued by us and have been the cornerstone of Deutsche Bank's success. We are very pleased with the progress and standing of our business here," said Cruz in his welcome speech.

Since acquiring full commercial banking license in 1995, Deutsche Bank has established a leading presence across every business area in which it competes. Of significance are the recent accomplishments of the debt and equity businesses: In offshore debt markets, the bank is the No. 1 arranger of Philippine debt and is among the top 2 accredited dealers of the Bureau of Treasury. Deutsche Regis, the equity arm of the bank, is the country's largest equities broker responsible for 20 percent of market turnover. The bank is also highly rated in custody and a broad range of transaction banking services.

Now employing over 100 in Manila, Cruz said he was optimistic about future growth in niche areas. In particular, the bank has been an active participant in the resolution of the non-performing assets of the banking sector.

In his speech, Kenneth Borda, CEO for Deutsche Bank Asia Pacific (excluding Japan), talked about the value of the Philippine's operation. "The Philippines is a market in which we have made a significant investment and have seen our business flourish over the last 10 years as client relationships have grown and markets have become more sophisticated. We take seriously our responsibility as a market participant, and will continue to dedicate resources and liquidity to the financial system in order to further develop markets."

Juergen Fitschen, head of Worldwide Regional Management at Deutsche Bank followed with commentary on the bank's strategy in the region. "Our business in Asia Pacific and the Philippines has seen significant revenue growth over the past decade. We expect annual compounded growth rates in Asia to be among the highest of all regions.

TERESITA Sy of the SM Group and SCB Philippines CEO Simon Morris

British bank fetes its prime clients

A COCKTAIL party recently hosted by the giant British bank for "The Right Partnership" defined its depth of relationship with the business, corporate and government sectors.

Regional Head of Client Relationships for Southeast Asia Peter Verhoeven, planed in from the Singapore regional headquarters to personally convey the Bank's appreciation for the years of trust and loyalty from clients and business partners. He was joined by Simon Morris, chief executive officer for the Philippines.

The Bank's senior executives were in full force in attending to clients and guests: Michaelangelo Aguilar (head, Client Relationships), Fernand Tansingco (head, Global Markets), Owen Belman (head, Consumer Banking), Ramesh Sundara (country operating officer), Chandrashekhar Raj (country financial officer), Marivel Gonzales (head, Legal and Compliance), and Annie Gonzales (head of HR).

The Wholesale Bank team—a consistent global winner in business performance and service excellence—stood shoulder-to-shoulder with clients: Cristina Bautista (head of Large Multinationals), Roberto Fernandez (head of Fixed Income), Cristina Goco (head of Transaction Banking), among others.

But the highlight of the celebration was an elaborate musical feast which had the casting coup of Southeast Asia's musical greats ZsaZsa Padilla and Vernie Varga. The music of Spirit of '67 Band rocked the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Hotel, sending the highly-spirited clients and guests to the packed dancefloor.

Standard Chartered employs 30,000 people in over 500 locations in more than 50 countries in the Asia Pacific Region, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the United Kingdom and the Americas. It is one of the world's most international banks, with a management team comprising 70 nationalities.

Firm offers insurance safety nets for SMEs

MORE than 90 percent of business enterprises in Asia are Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)—mostly family-run businesses, small corporations or single proprietorships.

In the Philippines, SMEs—which comprise 99.6 percent of all registered companies, contribute 32 percent to the economy and employ 69.9 percent of the labor force—are even more indispensable to overall growth. Unfortunately, risks to the survival and sustainability of these companies are often ignored by the SMEs themselves as well as most insurance companies.

Just like bigger ventures, SMEs need protection from risks ranging from computer crashes to burglaries to fires, observes Ian Kohler, director of enterprise of Aon Asia. Aon is the world's second largest insurance broker with 600 offices distributed throughout 120 countries.

He notes that most small business owners across Asia don't have the time or expertise to engage in risk management or setting up a system to minimize the loss exposures faced by an organization. Recognized as a vital component of any risk management plan, insurance policies serve as safety nets for small enterprises when calamity strikes, according to Kohler. Solutions, after all, are designed to facilitate their recovery from losses and resume their business.

On behalf of SMEs which it has identified as a dynamic market, Aon negotiated with a number of insurance companies to come up with a package that assists modest and medium-sized ventures in mitigating risks they commonly face. Kohler notes that by leveraging on the collective purchasing power of SMEs and Aon's extensive distribution network, the insurance brokerage firm has been able to provide a necessary service within the economic reach of these progressive enterprises.

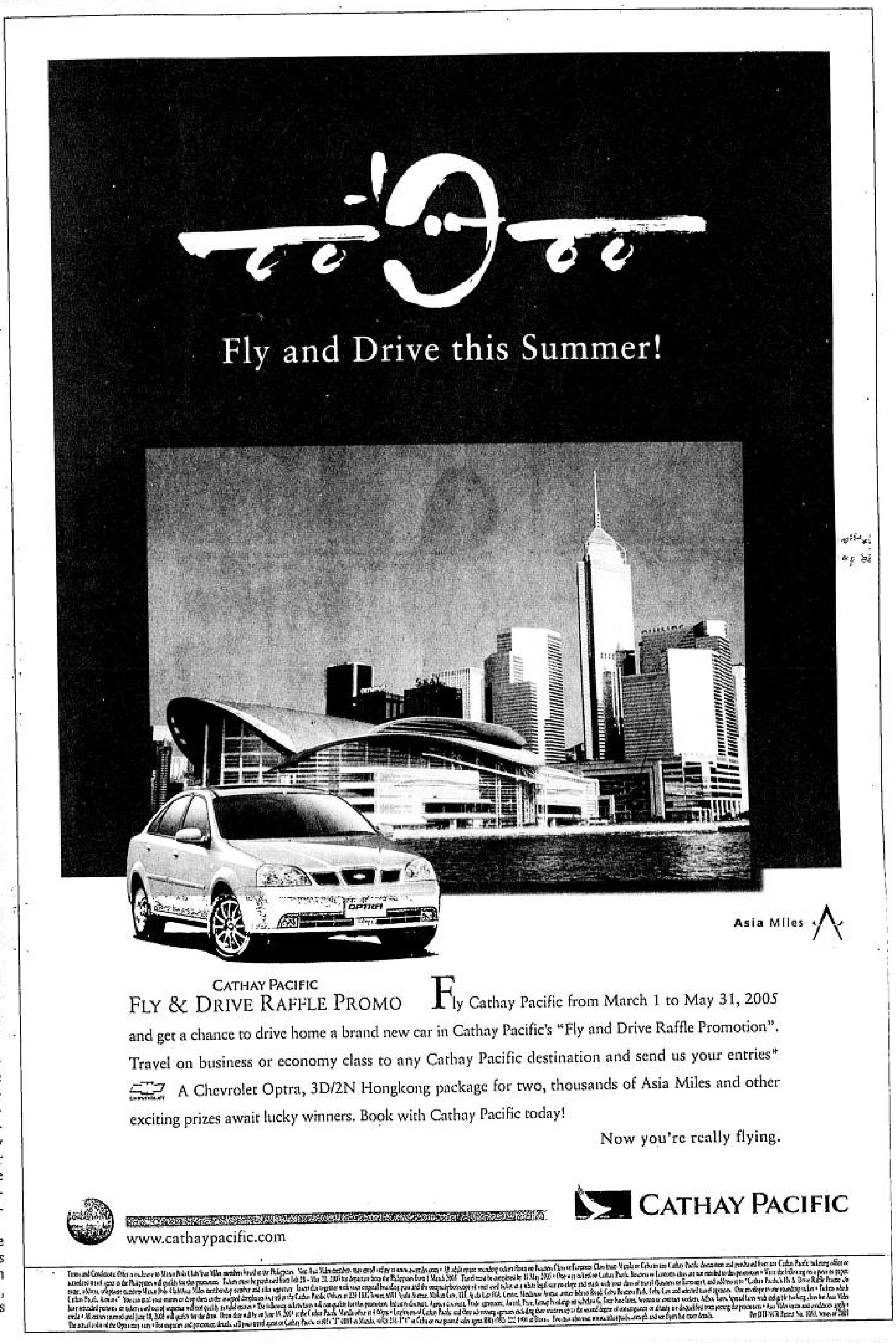
In November last year, Aon Philippines launched three insurance packages for small businesses that cover fire, electronic equipment, money securities and payroll, burglary and comprehensive general liability risks.

The Office Care, Restaurant Care and Store Care packages are tailored to fit the specific insurance needs of these SME sectors, explains Gerald Dolina, assistant vice president of Aon Philippines. SMEs may opt to select several or all of the seven risks as well as take extra coverage to cover other areas. Aon aspires to be comprehensive while giving the client flexibility.

It takes experience and foresight to anticipate risks, points out Kohler. He relates that one large US retailer requires its manufacturers in China to take out product liability insurance. The chain noted the litiguous nature of the American legal system and requires manufacturers to protect themselves against possible law suits.

Cheska Rivera of Aon Philippines recalls that comprehensive general liability insurance allowed an electronic manufacturer in Makati to recover immediately from an accident caused by a burst pipe in its unit. The water seeped to a neighboring office damaging computers and cabinets. Nevertheless, the client's insurance covered for the damage.

Dolina explains that SMEs are not limited to the common risks identified by Aon. As explained in its website, www.ayalaaon.com., other needs of small enterprises can just as easily be covered.



Fly and Drive this Summer!

Asia Miles

CATHAY PACIFIC
FLY & DRIVE RAFFLE PROMO

Fly Cathay Pacific from March 1 to May 31, 2005 and get a chance to drive home a brand new car in Cathay Pacific's "Fly and Drive Raffle Promotion". Travel on business or economy class to any Cathay Pacific destination and send us your entries" A Chevrolet Optra, 3D/2N Hongkong package for two, thousands of Asia Miles and other exciting prizes await lucky winners. Book with Cathay Pacific today!

Now you're really flying.

CATHAY PACIFIC

www.cathaypacific.com

Every Fund
you place...

Every **Banco De Oro** Transaction You Make,

Watsons
Toy Kingdom
THE AMAZING TOY STORE
FIREBALL
Huggies
Pampers
SM SUPERMARKET

BDO Rewards

We find ways

Member: PDIC. Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor P250,000.

At Banco De Oro, you'll be entitled to g

So whether you open or maintain a depo
or house, you earn points which you can

The more points you earn, the more rev

And these rewards are not the usual, the

BANKIN

Contact the BDO Call Cente

We're REWARDING You!

HITACHI
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
Moulinex
BLACK & DECKER
SM Appliance Center
our Home

et REAL REWARDS no matter what kind of banking service you avail of.

›sit account, get and use a credit card, invest in a fund portfolio, or acquire a loan for a new car
use to redeem rewards.

vards you get. Or you may opt to accumulate these points to redeem rewards of greater value.

ey are essentials to real everyday living.

IG HAS NEVER BEEN THIS REWARDING!

at 631-8000, Domestic Toll Free # 1-800-10-631-8000 or visit any Banco De Oro branch.

AdBoard inducts new set of officers, directors

THE ADVERTISING Board of the Philippines (AdBoard) formally inducted its officers and board of directors for 2005 recently at the Ballroom 3 of Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City. Raul S. Alvarez, AVP for marketing services of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co (PLDT), is this year's AdBoard chair.

DTI SECRETARY Juan B. Santos inducts the new officers

Also inducted were Ma. Teresa D. Villanueva, senior executive officer of Jimenez-Basic Advertising (vice chair); Paciencia M. Pineda, EVP/treasurer of Manila Bulletin (treasurer); Edgar M. Navalta, Asap voice talent (corporate secretary); and Ruperto S. Nicdao Jr, president of Manila Broadcasting Company (PR and information officer).

The members of the board of directors are Khalil O. Khodr Jr, managing director of Sell Co (Son et Lumierre); Mitos Camahort, president of Image Dimensions Inc; Susan L. Dimacali, president of BBDO/Guerrero Ortega; Ma. Socorro M. Pitargue, president of PC&V Communications; Jose Y. Sy, president of Film-Ads Philippines; Tessie Celestino-Howard, president of Airtime Marketing (Philippines); Joselito G. Yabut, COO of Primax Broadcasting Network; Carlo S. Llave, president and general manager of The Fourth Dimension Inc; Ma. Belen M. Fernando, vice president for marketing of Alaska Milk Corp; lawyer Gafar E. Lutian, senior legal counsel, external relations group of Procter and Gamble Distributing (Philippines); Edgardo G. Sunico, country communications manager of Unilever Philippines Inc; Felipe R. Olarte, VP-advertising of Philippine Daily Inquirer; and Vivian Y. Tin, VP-research and business analysis of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

The new officers and directors were inducted by Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Juan B. Santos with Patricia Evangelista, winner of the Public Speaking Competition by the English Speaking Union, as guest speaker.

The AdBoard is the umbrella organization of professionals in the advertising practice functioning as the advertising industry's governing body. Its main objective is to promote the development of the advertising industry through self-regulation, in harmony with industry goals.

ADBOARD chair Raul S. Alvarez

Foremost in the priority list of projects for this year are campaigns for values formation and AdBoard appreciation, AdBoard systems and processes, and a new office. Chair Alvarez believes that there is a need to define roles and simplify tasks for plans to work. "The AdBoard will keep it real and make sure that things are done immediately. We will conduct our business according to our vision, mission, and objectives so we can be of better service to the industry, our member associations, and our consumers," says Alvarez.

The AdBoard is composed of 9 active member associations, namely, Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana); Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies-Philippines (4As); United Print Media Group (UPMG); Independent Blocktimers Association of the Philippines (IBA); Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP); Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP); Cinema Advertising Association of the Philippines (CAAP); Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines (Asap); and Marketing and Opinion Research Society of the Philippines (Mores).

FRONT Row, from left: Jose Sy, director; Tessie Celestino-Howard, director; Paciencia M. Pineda, treasurer; Raul S. Alvarez, chair; Ma. Teresa D. Villanueva, vice chair; Mitos F. Comahort, director. Second row, from left: lawyer Gafar E. Lutian, director; Ma. Belen M. Fernando, director; Ma. Socorro M. Pitargue, director, Pepito R. Olarte, director, Khalil O. Khodr Jr, director. Third row, from left: Carlo S. Llave, director; Ruperto S. Nicdao Jr, PR officer; Edgardo G. Sunico, director; Joselito G. Yabut, director; Edgar M. Navalta, corporate secretary.

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

MARIO Garcia and Ces Drilon

EGAY Navalta and Raul Alvarez giving the token of appreciation to guest speaker Patricia Evangelista.

SEATED, from left: Oscar Lagman, former AdBoard executive director; Deo Alvarez, Atlas Publishing; Charlie Arcega, Liwayway Publishing; Rene Reinoso, Philippine Daily Inquirer; Edwin Valera, MOD Magazine. Standing, from left: Raul Alvarez, 2005 AdBoard chair; Egay Navalta, corporate secretary, Inquirer's Pepito Olarte, director, and Joe Sy, director.

THE OFFICERS take their oaths

Touch Mobile goes 'todo power' with 'Todo Tawag Text'

TM SUBSCRIBERS can now keep communicating with friends and loved ones without having to sacrifice other valuable things in life with TM's promo called "Todo Tawag Text."

This new promo is another way by which TM brings "Power to the People," especially during these economically trying times when it is difficult to stretch one's peso. "The 'Todo Tawag Text' promo is our way of helping our TM subscribers, allowing them unlimited call and text time at an affordable rate. This new promo is powered by Globe's reliable network coverage, which ensures connectivity wherever they are, whenever they need it. This way, we give them value for their hard earned money," explained Nonie Busuego, TM segment head.

The "Todo Text" promo of P50 allows them unlimited texting for five days, with family members, friends or work contacts who are also TM subscribers. This TM offer responds to the needs of value-seeking consumers who want value for their money.

TM subscribers can avail themselves of the "Todo Tawag Text" promo for only P300 for 30 days and P150 for 15 days making it as low as P10 a day, enjoying unlimited calling and texting. This gives TM subscribers an edge as they can have a more affordable promo that gives them both voice and SMS services given that other networks offer about P115 for only 10 days and is only limited to its voice service.

Apart from this advantage, TM users can connect with other TM subs for as long as 30 minutes per call while other networks drop calls every five or 15 minutes. With Globe's strong and wide network, TM subscribers, and even Globe users, are assured that quality will not be compromised with this new promo. "We made the necessary technical adjustments in our network to ensure that our subscribers get the quality service," Busuego continued.

TM subscribers need not purchase any special call cards for this promo. All they have to do is to register by simply texting TM<space>300 and send to 2824. Registration is free, so all TM subscribers can take advantage of this from March 8 to April 7. Just make sure that you have a minimum account balance of P301 before registering to the TM "Todo Tawag Text." The one-step registration process for this promo is so easy and convenient. It frees TM subscribers from the hassle of waiting to be connected every time they make a call.

TM truly empowers its subscribers with Todo Tawag Text. Make the most out of your peso with TM's unlimited calling and texting, powered by Globe!

AOTS CLOSING CEREMONIES

The 19 participants of the 'Teachers Training: Data Communications' program, held at the Meralco Foundation Institute, were honored during the closing ceremonies after completing a month's training. Organized by the Association of Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) of Japan and sponsored by the Ministry of Economics, Trade and Industry (Meti) of Japan, the participant-scholars come from Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR and the Philippines. Left photo shows scholar Wan Zalina Binti Wan Mohd Saidin from Malaysia, and right photo shows Yin Hon Wong from Thailand receiving their respective certificates from Meralco Foundation Inc (MFI) president Col. Alex T. Escaño, assisted by Fernando Micu, assistant general manager, AOTS-Manila. Shown at front row, from left are 2nd Secretary, Economics and Protocol from the Embassy of Thailand; Minister Wan Mahamud Jaafar of the Embassy of Malaysia, Col. Alex Escaño, Irene M. Isaac, Executive Director, SDCO-Tesda, dean Alberto Muyot, trustee of MFI, OK Socheat, Ambassador of Cambodia; Noiz Santos, head, MFI; and Fernando Micu.

Ayala Plans announces winners

AYALA Plans Inc, the pre-need subsidiary of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), recently announced the winners for its 10th anniversary promotion.

The first prize winner of a pension plan worth P500,000 plus a showcase of her choice is Ginalen Buenconsejo Gerona of Victorias City, Negros Occidental.

Two winners for the second prize of a pension plan worth P100,000 each plus their choice of showcase are Nenita Casundo Gomez of Apokon Road, Tagum City and Djhona Estroque Gangca of Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte.

Three winners for the third prize of pension plan worth P100,000 each are Jusselyn Colance Tamayo of Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental; Perpetual Help Community Cooperative of Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental; Leonida Decena Varquez of Tagum City.

Four winners for the fourth prize of choice of showcase are Norma Carreon Egalin of Iloilo City; Adel De Castro Sañez of Bacoor Cavite; Ronite Corderia Arceta of San Pablo City; and Octovenic Figuracion Lazo of Canduman, Mandaue City.

Showcase options were "Family Trip to Boracay", "Computer Showcase" and "Entertainment Showcase" worth P50,000 each.

Winners have been notified by mail. Ayala Plans was founded in 1994, and is now one of the leading pre-need companies in the Philippines with a trust fund of P2.49 billion.

'Hoppy Easter' at Dusit Hotel Nikko

IT'S GOING to be a "Hoppy Easter" at Dusit Hotel Nikko as the hotel presents its Farmland theme on March 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom. Celebrate the Easter Sunday Mass 9 a.m. at the Ciao function room located at the mezzanine level. Go crazy with the Easter egg hunt and Easter Egg Roll and get a chance to win great prizes from Learning is Fun!, Coralyn, Care Bears, Osh Kosh B' Gosh, Cinderella, Garfield and Kidsports. Show your creativity by joining the Best Decorated Easter Egg Contest! Open to all kids aged 3-12 years old. Simply bring your decorated hard boiled egg on Easter Sunday that conforms to the theme of Farmland and get the chance to win fabulous prizes. Kids dining at the Café aged 3 to 10 years old from March 14 to 26 can join the Easter Drawing Contest by interpreting the theme "Me at Easter Farmland". And that's not all. Kids will enjoy free ice cream from Nestlé, hotdogs and nuggets from Purefoods and Nestlé's Chuckle Drink. Plus, all kids will receive Easter loot bags with products from Regent Food Corp, Leslie's, Mini Balloons from Filstar Distributors Corp, Jellyace, Cheezee and Magnolia Fruit Drinks. To step into Dusit's Farmland, diners availing themselves of the hotel's Easter brunch buffet priced at P950.00++ per person will receive one access coupon. For queries, call Dusit Hotel Nikko at 867-3333.

‘E’ is for effort

A LEADER’S WAY

John C. Maxwell

MY WIFE Margaret and I are big history buffs. So, when the Berlin Wall was coming down in 1989, we talked about going to Germany to watch it fall in person. What an opportunity to see one of the greatest historical events of the twentieth century unfold right before our eyes!

It would have just taken a few days out of my calendar to experience a bit of history in the making, but we didn't do it.

With a little extra effort, I could have made a memory with my family that I would have cherished for the rest of my life. Instead, all I have is regret that we didn't go.

If I took a survey, I'm sure most of you would be able to think of a time when you could have experienced something wonderful if you had only put forth a little extra effort. You'd probably also be able to recall a time when you could have excelled in some area if you had only tried a bit harder. Perhaps your example would have to do with physical fitness, academics, your golf game, a personal relationship, or your career. Whatever the case, a little extra effort is all it would have taken for you to reach the next level of success.

I’m not trying to discourage you by reminding you of past regrets. Far from it. I'm hoping that reading this will prompt you to work a little smarter, listen a little better, push a little harder, or persevere a little longer when it comes to current and future projects, responsibilities, and relationships.

Is doing a little bit more really that important? Well, look at it this way. How do people at the top get there? Do they take an elevator? Does a helicopter drop them off at the peak? Of course not. People at the top get there by going the extra mile, working the extra hours, and investing the extra time. They realize that nobody's going to come along and carry them to the pinnacle; they have to get there themselves through their own hard work. The same is true for you. If you want to get to the top in any segment of life, a little extra effort is essential.

In his book, “Leadership When the Heat is On,” Danny Cox advises leaders who want to achieve great things to ask themselves four questions:

- What do I really want?
- What will it cost?
- Am I willing to pay the price?
- When should I start paying the price?

“If you don't answer the last question and make a commitment to a start date, the first three questions don’t really matter,” Cox writes. “The best answer [to the last question], of course, is ‘now.’ Achievers choose what losers won't and pay the price that others don't.”

In other words, achievers are willing to put forth a little extra effort in order to accomplish their goals. What does it take to have a better marriage? A little extra effort. What does it take to be a better friend, team member, mentor or parent? A little extra effort. What does it take to become a better leader? You guessed it—a little extra effort.

Don't wait until tomorrow to start putting forth that extra effort. Do it now, while you still can. I assure you—you won't regret it.

Feedback at Dr Maxwell c/o slvguru@pldtDSL.net

PROCTER & Gamble, through the American Red Cross International Response Fund donated $35,000 to the Philippine National Red Cross, to cover relief operations for typhoon-ravaged provinces. PNRC chair and CEO Sen. Richard Gordon receives the check from P & G Philippines president Johnip Cua. Looking on are Wendolyn Pang and Ed Imerial.

How can you make your business more competitive?

ERIC + IBM @server pSeries

Combine affordable, easy to use ERIC ERP, software implementation expertise from Jupiter Systems, and the rock solid, highly available **IBM eServer pSeries®** platform. Give it 8 to 16 calendar weeks* and full management support.

The result? A streamlined, killer business with faster response to customers operating at less cost.

*our consistent track record for full financial management integrated with customer order management or procurement implementation.

Get started. Contact Jupiter Systems today for a commitment-free process audit and software review.

IBM Business Partner

JUPITER SYSTEMS, INC

Value Added Distributor WSi Worldtech Systems, Inc.

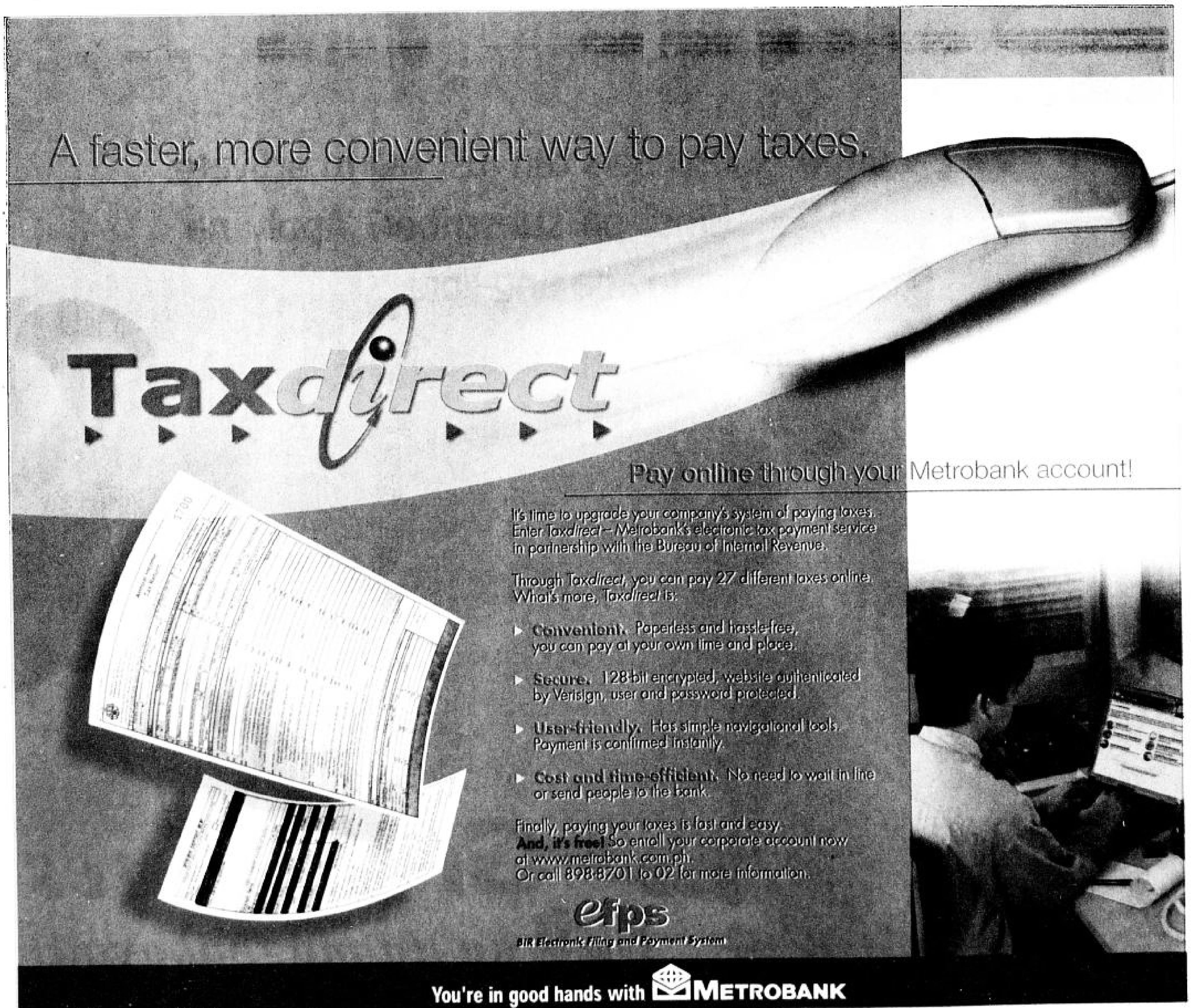
Manila - Shanghai - Hanoi - Bangkok - San Francisco
www.jupitersystems.com
Tel: 8934032, 8126149 ext. 104 Fax: 8123229
3/F Don Pablo Building, 114 Amorsolo Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City
synergy@jupitersystems.com.ph

IBM pSeries Highlights

- Innovative, powerful, afforable, open and adaptable UNIX and Linux POWER5 system design
- Dynamic partitioning capabilities facilitate efficient resource utilization
- Mainframe-inspired reliability, availability and serviceability (RAS) capabilities

ERIC's Range of Solutions

- Sales Order Management
- Mobile Sales Force
- Sales Analysis
- Purchasing & Logistics
- Inventory Management
- Warehouse Management
- Accounting
- Cashflow and Investments
- Manufacturing Resource Planning (MRPII)
- Asset / Machine Maintenance



A faster, more convenient way to pay taxes.

Taxdirect

Pay online through your Metrobank account!

It's time to upgrade your company's system of paying taxes. Enter *Taxdirect* – Metrobank's electronic tax payment service in partnership with the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Through *Taxdirect*, you can pay 27 different taxes online. What's more, *Taxdirect* is:

- **Convenient.** Paperless and hassle-free, you can pay at your own time and place.
- **Secure.** 128-bit encrypted, website authenticated by Verisign, user and password protected.
- **User-friendly.** Has simple navigational tools. Payment is confirmed instantly.
- **Cost and time-efficient.** No need to wait in line or send people to the bank.

Finally, paying your taxes is fast and easy. **And, it's free!** So enroll your corporate account now at www.metrobank.com.ph. Or call 898-8701 to 02 for more information.

efps
BIR Electronic Filing and Payment System

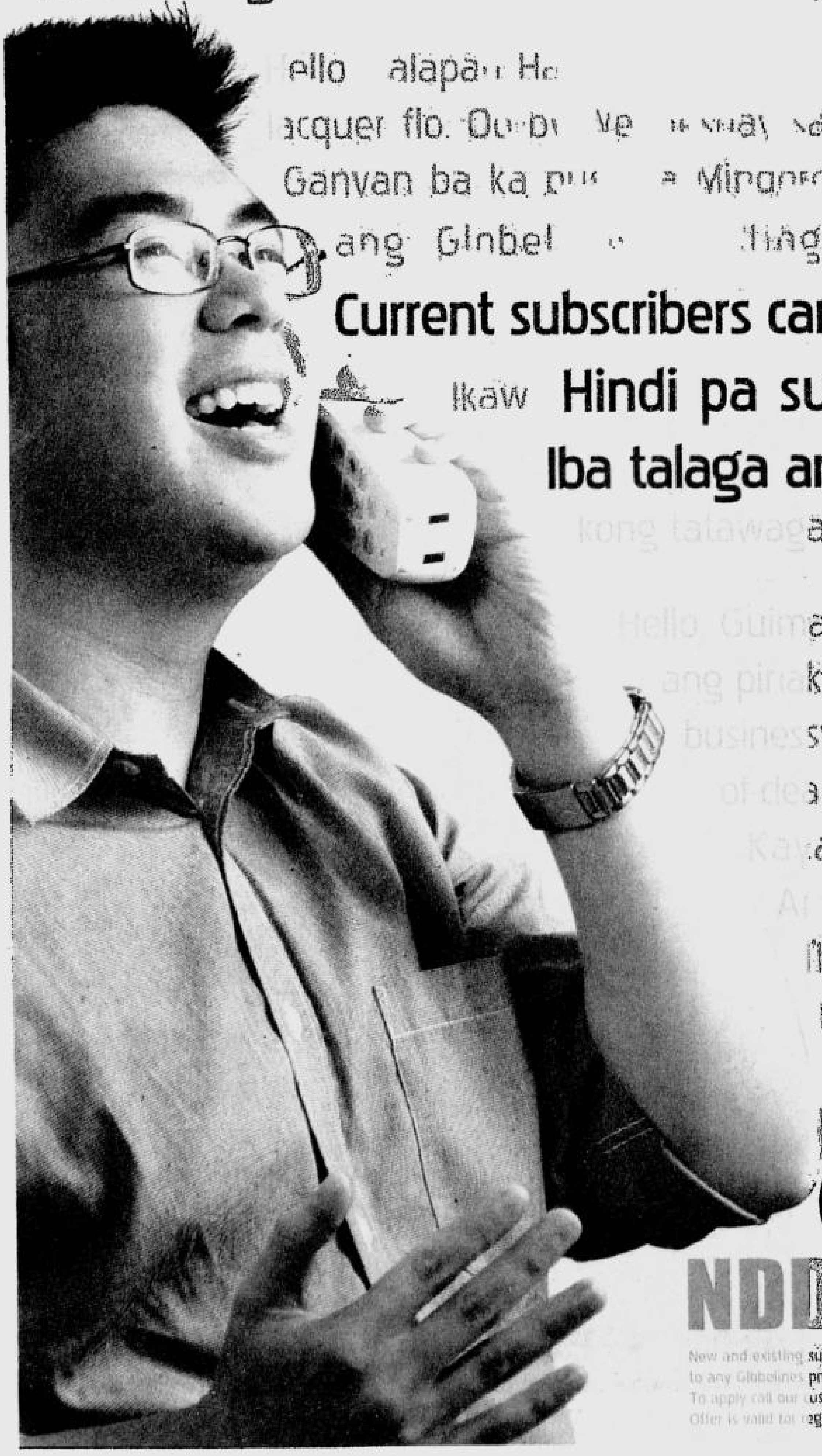
You're in good hands with METROBANK

Over 800 domestic and international branches, offices and subsidiaries.
Head Office: Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City; Web Page: www.metrobank.com.ph
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to P250,000.00 per depositor.

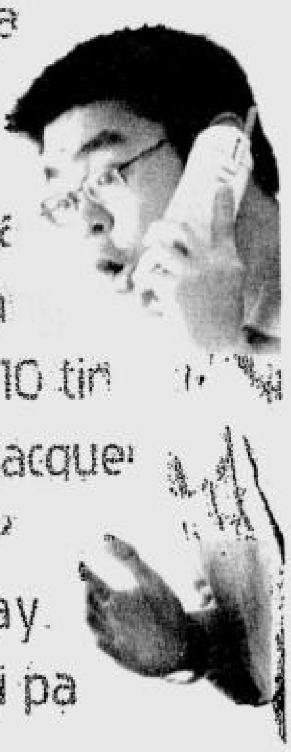
A proud member of BancNet

Hello, Iloilo Trading? Yes, I'm calling to confirm my orders. yes that's 1,500 board feet of narra. I might need the same amount for Kamagong... Okay, can I have the number of that supplier? Are they also in Iloilo? Alright, thanks! Hello is this Iloilo Woodworks? Good morning. I need 1,500 board feet of Kamagong. I need them by Wednesday. great! I need them delivered here in Makati. I'll just call you again to confirm. Thank you!

Hello. Carmona Construction Supplies? Yes pare I'm calling to confirm my orders for the 10 tins of sanding sealer. Okay na? Great! Can you deliver by Wednesday. Tha[illegible] ah got them. My customers in Cebu loved eve[illegible] there in Cavite maybe next week. I'll call you an[illegible] Okay lang yan! Libre naman ang calls sa Globelines! Dito **free NDD forever! If you apply between March 21 to April 19, 2005. Basta Globelines Postpaid to any Globelines phone anywhere in the country!** Which means **no per minute, no per call, no added charge! Libre talaga!** [illegible] Mike [illegible]



Hello [illegible] alapa[illegible] order naman ako ng 10 lacquer flo. [illegible] Ikaw ha, hindi ka na tumatawag. Ganyan ba ka[illegible] Mingnon Ha, anong mahal? May free NDD ang Globel[illegible] ting Globelines subscriber ka ba. **Current subscribers can just call to activate.** Ah talaga? Ikaw **Hindi pa subscriber? Apply na!** Okay no? **Iba talaga ang libre.** O sige, madami pa kong tatawagan eh. Ingat!



Hello, Guimaras Trading? O kamusta na ang pinakamasipag at pinakamaganda businesswoman? Eula, I need to order 10 tins of [illegible] gloss and 10 tins of dead flat lacquer. Kaya ba yan by Wednesday? Ang galing mo talaga! Okay. I'll wait for your orders. Madami pa kong tatawagan.

Globelines

NDD ka na magbabayad!

New and existing subscribers who apply during the promo period will enjoy toll-free NDD calls from Globelines postpaid to any Globelines phone for the duration of their subscription.
To apply call our customer care hotline at (02) 919-8888 in Luzon or (032) 410-8888 in Visayas and Mindanao.
Offer is valid for regular voice calls only.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1597, Series of 2005

BOOK says demonic possession is real /E1

LIFESTYLE

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Subsection Editor **Lito B. Zulueta**

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

Ignoring government and Vatican legislations, priests whimsically remodel churches and strip altars of icons to sell to the antique market

NOT all church heritage must be Spanish colonial Baroque, as this American period wooden church in Ifugao province shows.

Have mercy on our churches

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F Villalon

DESPITE the common misconception that anything associated with the Spanish in the Philippines is evil, Roman Catholic symbols introduced by the Spanish are paradoxically the first association Filipinos make with heritage.

In Roman Catholic churches, religion combines tradition and ritual in an aura of opulent, grand spaces studded with precious objects. Our Spanish colonial churches and parish houses (called *convento* in the Philippines), with their hoard of religious treasures, indeed, make imposing symbols for grandeur-based heritage.

Opulence is a norm for churches. Architectural details in stone or wood are intricately carved, gilded and painted.

On altars fronted with beaten silver panels are chalices and monstrances of gold. Wooden religious images with ivory heads and hands are skillfully carved and clothed in robes covered with stunning embroidery.

Philippine churches are so outstanding that Unesco collectively inscribed four of them as the Baroque Churches of the Philippines in recognition of their uniqueness and universal value.

The inscribed churches are San Agustín in Paoay, Ilocos Norte; Nuestra Señora de la Asunción in Santa María, Ilocos Sur; San Agustín in Intramuros, Manila; and San Francisco de Villanueva in Miag-ao, Iloilo.

As World Heritage sites, they must be strictly maintained, following regulations stipulated by Unesco.

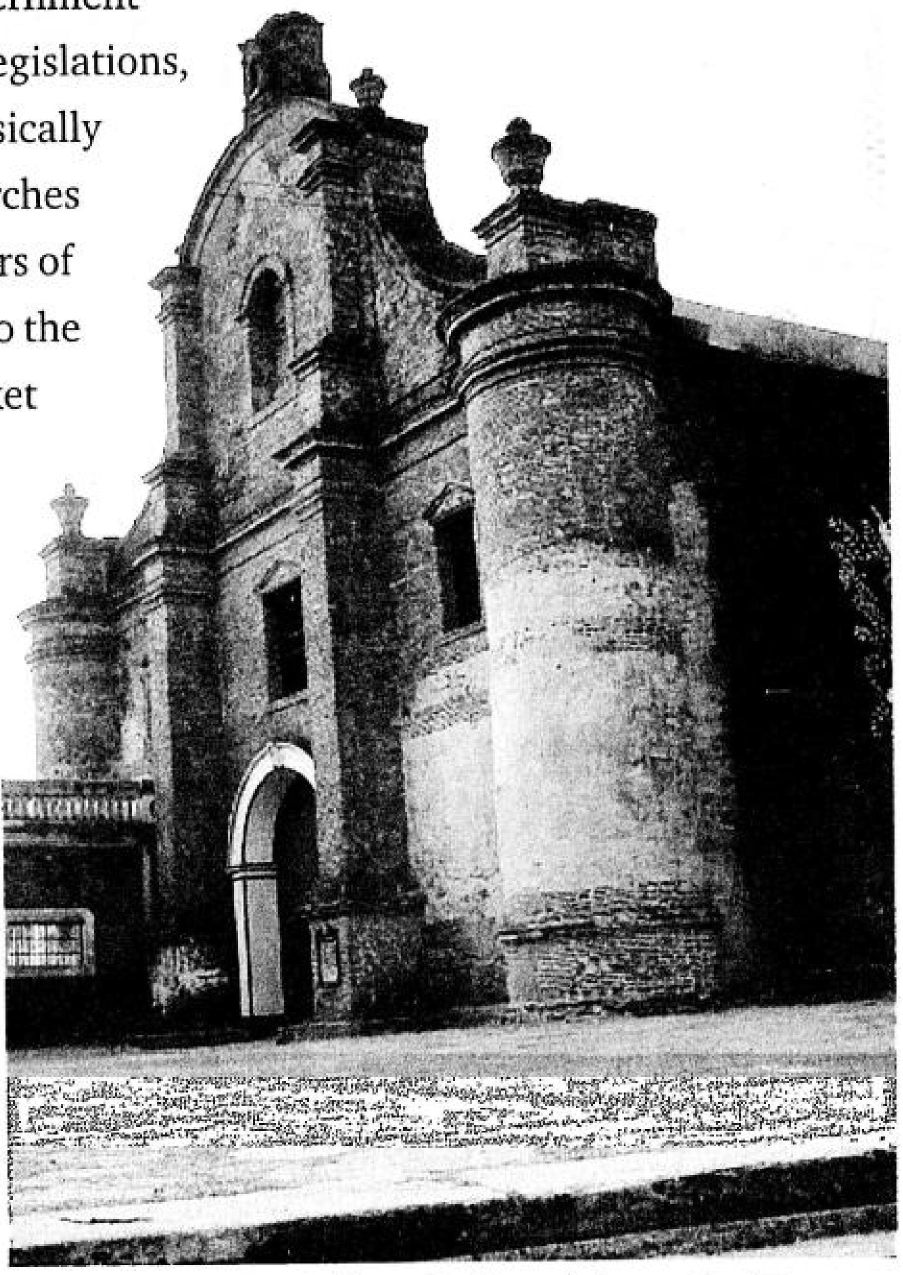
Aside from the Unesco listing, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and National Museum have designated 26 churches in different parts of the Philippines as National Treasures, in recognition of their architectural and artistic merits.

The program provides limited assistance for restoration and maintenance of the 26 churches to be guided by NCCA and NM experts, who implement internationally accepted conservation principles.

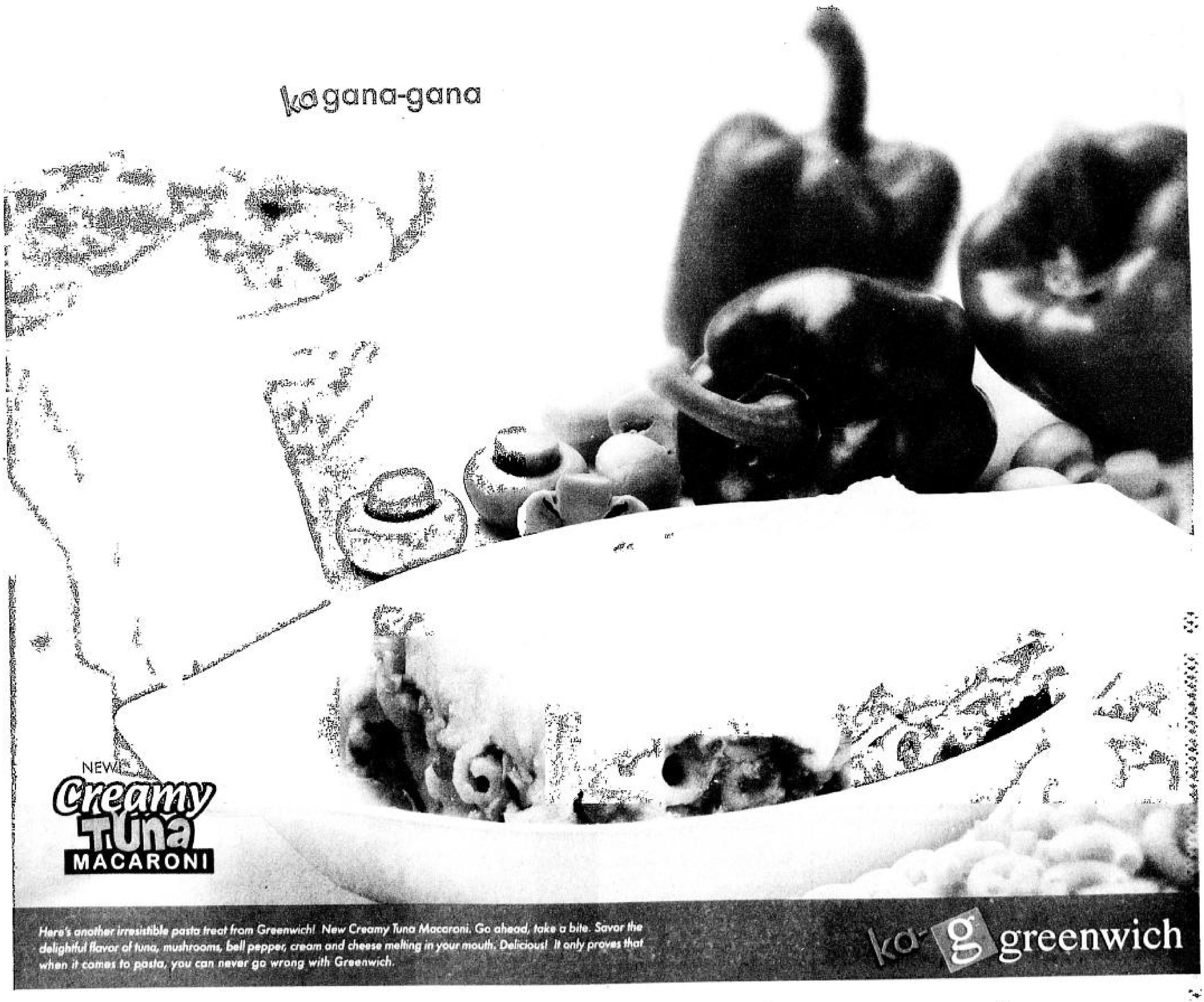
To ensure proper protection of churches and their treasures, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) organized the Committee for the Preservation of the Heritage of the Church.

This committee enforces a Vatican law assigning priests responsibility for

HAVE/ C2

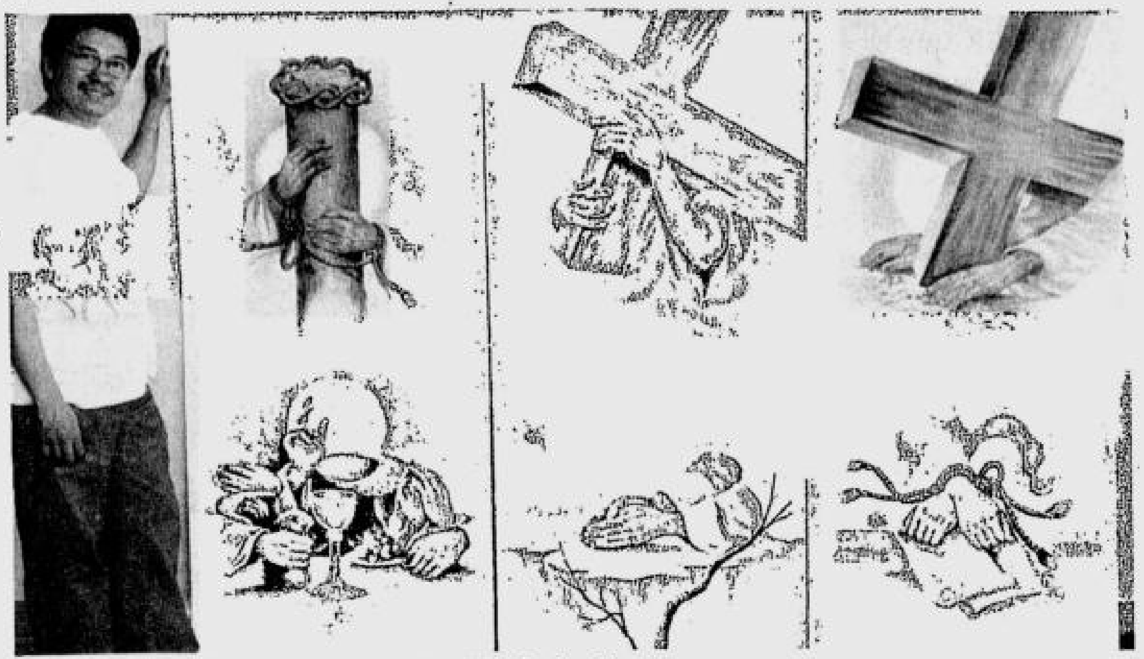


SANTA Maria church in Ilocos Sur is internationally recognized as an outstanding architecture.



Here's another irresistible pasta treat from Greenwich! New Creamy Tuna Macaroni. Go ahead, take a bite. Savor the delightful flavor of tuna, mushrooms, bell pepper, cream and cheese melting in your mouth. Delicious! It only proves that when it comes to pasta, you can never go wrong with Greenwich.

Piano's Calvary, Pilar's Shangri-La



PANCHO Piano and his "New Way of the Cross" for the Ago Chapel

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

IN a nation totally entrenched in the culture of suffering and enmeshed in the theology of salvation, the subject of the Passion of Christ remains a fertile ground for artists to explore.

Pancho Piano, a Bicolano artist from Albay who has devoted a large part of his life to creating religious art, mainly murals and stained glass in churches, chapels and private museums, has come up with a uniquely iconoclastic way of interpreting the Way of the Cross.

Though an abstractionist in his recent shows, Piano has reverted to the figurative mode in his latest oeuvre: the "New Way of the Cross."

Using mainly the hands and arms of the subject to establish a particular episode, the artist conveys powerfully the same message in less graphic terms than most traditional images, including Mel Gibson's controversial film, "Passion of the Christ."

The project, commissioned by a leading art patron from Legazpi City, Dr. Lita Ago, dramatizes the 14 Stations of the Cross, beginning with the Last Supper all the way to Christ's death.

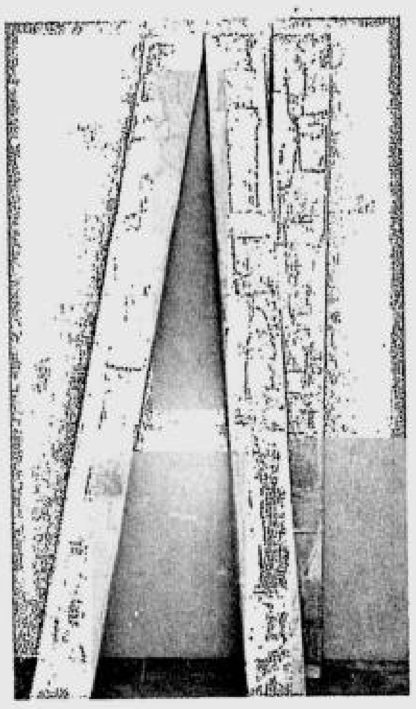
Executed in oil and uniformly 34" x 36," the scenes are visualized with the minimum of details, with most significant props and only the most telling details as indicated in accounts of Christ's Passion.

Hands tell the story

Of course, one would surmise that the most vital aspect of Piano's treatment is the manner in which the hands delineate the welter of emotions, as Christ undergoes the most despicable forms of torture or punishment, which Gibson's film clearly took pains reenacting.

Dramatic changes in interpreting the Passion have shifted focus on the redemptive lesson rather than on the sadomasochistic form of suffering. So the images the artist depicts have a more subdued effect, both in their visuals and their dramaturgy.

Even the dominant color borders on the pastel, which perhaps best prefigures the triumphant tone in the Cross.



"COLORED Stones," by Doltz Pilar

Piano has had a variety of projects on more or less the same turf and theme. He has done the Way of the Cross in another medium at the Masbate Cathedral.

In Naga City, he was commissioned to execute the Way of the Cross in stained glass for Metropolitan Cathedral. Five years ago, he painted Our Lady of Annunciation in acrylic on canvas.

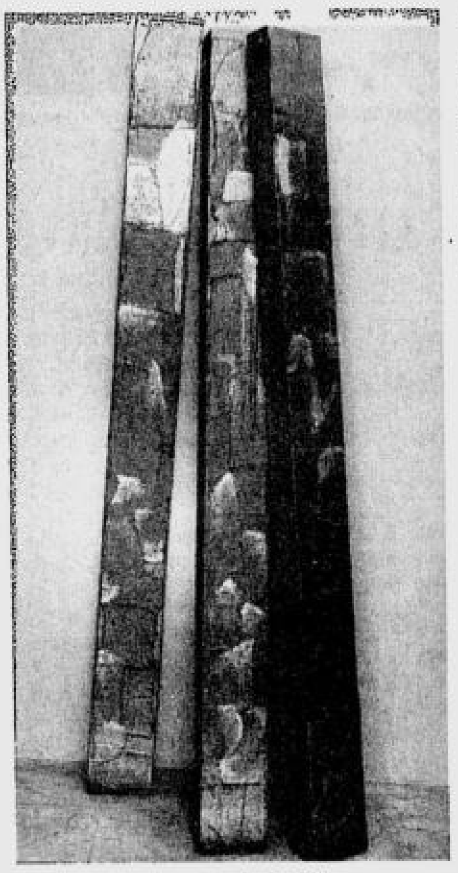
He has completed over a dozen projects on religious subjects found in various churches and chapels in the Bicol region, truly a showcase of his religious fervor as well as artistry.

Doubly blessed

One artist who has finally been rewarded with a well-deserved solo show, Doltz Pilar, was doubly blessed with a near sell-out exhibit of his new works.

Just two years ago, Pilar was part of a group that exhibited at the Philippine Center in New York but was not able to make the trip. He continued doing projects as an interior designer specializing in floral arrangements and parlaying unusual materials.

Talent will shine most luminously especially when it serves a truly noble and ennobling purpose



"POLISHED Slate," by Doltz Pilar

His list of clientele grew. A group raising funds for Sentro Kalinga Mother and Child Center invited Pilar to be the featured artist in an art auction at The Edge at One McKinley Road in the Fort.

Pilar's paintings for the current show are uncannily different in both size and format from his past works: They are slim, delicate and vertical. They come in threes and fours, even fives—ensuring flexibility in mix-and-match arrangements.

The mixed media approach works wonderfully in highlighting the buoyant spirit of the pieces which seem to glow and glisten with the illumination.

Pilar has infused the all-too-essential textural effects with the use of manifold patches—organic canvas and jute sack fibers—resulting in a lively dialogue between horizontal and vertical elements.

A self-taught artist, Pilar is an avid experimentalist who prefers to capture the natural state of the earth's resources, such as stones, rocks and metals. While his subject may not be entirely original, his interpretation is disarmingly charming and child-like.

His works will put to shame those of many artists with formal training, which just proves that art is a great equalizer. Talent will shine most luminously especially when it serves a truly noble and ennobling purpose, as in Pilar's case.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

A KID prepares his eagle kite for an afternoon flight.

RP's first kite festival

ON any given weekend, when the sky is clear and the warm wind is moderately blowing, the fields of City Center in Bonifacio Global City in Taguig becomes a campground for kite-flyers of all ages.

Colorful and intricately designed kites are launched to the sky as hundreds of onlookers and cars surround the rectangular lot and its adjacent areas. The wholesome and festive mood of the venue promises a wonderful family day.

"Kite-flying is ideal recreational activity for families. It is a chance to create meaningful ties and open the lines of communication between parents and children," explains Jimmy Menina, project director of the Kite Association of the Philippines (KAP).

The informal weekend gathering of kite-flying hobbyists and enthusiasts at the Bonifacio Global City has inspired the organization led by Orly Ongkingco, with the cooperation of the city government of Taguig under the leadership of Mayor Freddie Tinga, to hold a festival that will showcase the Filipinos' creativity and craftsmanship in making and flying kites.

The celebration that will run in April and May will commence the inclusion of the Philippines in the Asean kitefest map and its possible hosting in the future.

"Kite-flying is a Filipino tradition that we would like to preserve and revive through the First Philippine Kite Festival," says KAP president Orly Ongkingco.

The kitefest, sponsored by Nature's Spring Purified and Distilled Drinking Water, will be held simultaneously in Mandaue, Cebu, with the top qualifier from the regional leg earning a shot at bagging the top spot to be held on May 6 to 8 at the Global City.

Registration is on March 19-20 and 26-27 for a fee of P100. A general assembly and briefing of all participants will be held on April 2-3 prior to the official opening of the competition on April 9 beginning with the non-professional (Non-Pro) level.

Call 9136404, 9129989 or 9129924, or (032) 2629868 and 0921-2546612 in Cebu.

THE FIELD of Bonifacio Global City becomes a kite flying camp on weekends.

Have mercy on our churches

From page C1

safeguarding the cultural heritage of their churches.

It also coordinates all church conservation work throughout the country, requiring parish priests to submit their plans for approval before proceeding with any construction work.

Churches, other heritage buildings, and cultural objects are well protected by a web of national and local legislation, with the earliest having been enacted by the American colonial government a few years after the turn of the 20th century.

The 1987 Constitution states: "All the country's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition," it is an amplification of the 1973 Constitution's statement "Filipino culture shall be preserved and developed for national identity."

Although a long list of legislation mandates agencies and committees to protect national heritage, we cannot rest assured that our heritage is in good hands.

Just a few good hands protect our heritage. Most Filipino hands, whether private, government or religious, are blissfully unaware of the value of heritage and of their caretaker responsibilities with regard to conserving our heritage.

Ignoring all government and Vatican legislation, many priests take control of their churches. In the guise of "improvement," they allow whims to dictate the remodeling of their churches, changing of façades, adding of rooms or collateral buildings to church exteriors, leasing out frontage to construct McDonald's outlets, and whatever else they may want to do.

Church interiors are modernized without any regard for the original designs. Altars are stripped and changed. Architectural details, religious images, carvings, antique structural timber and church pews either become firewood or find their way into the antique market.

Unscrupulous contractors prey on the unaware clergy, insisting on blanket replacement of timber trusses with steel instead of doing a close inspection to determine which wooden members can still be retained.

Heritage NGOs in Taal, Batangas, are suing the parish priest for building an illegal chapel in the historic church courtyard despite an order from the National Historical Institute to desist from construction.

Sometimes it feels as if our churches were under siege.

In the interest of fairness, however, the blame for destroying church heritage should not point solely to the parish priest. Parishioners are equally at fault.

Wealthy parishioners bully their parish priests, getting away with replacing antique flooring with modern marble tiles inferior to the original. Some replace centuries-old sculptures with cheap plaster images.

Others insist on changing church façades, stick on additional rooms to the exterior, and do alterations that forever change the original appearance of the church. It's ego all the way. The donor insists on a large plaque attesting to his munificence.

Everyone wants to leave his mark on the church, without realizing that any damage inflicted on a church largely diminishes its heritage value. The original is always the best, which is why conservation professionals insist on maintaining authenticity at all costs.

Authenticity is maintaining original ingredients without quality-compromising substitutions, so a recipe handed down for generations maintains its same taste.

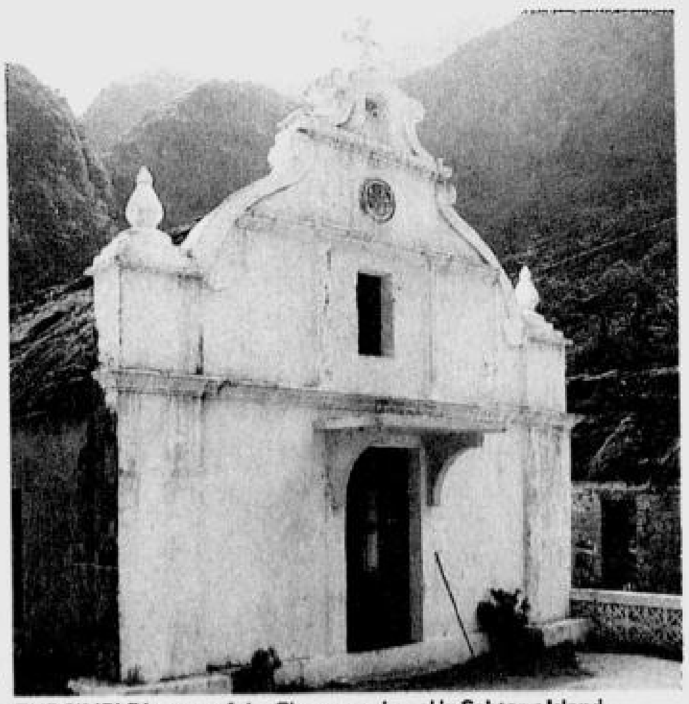
A 19th-century heirloom portrait of great-grandparents totally loses its authenticity if modernized by a sidewalk painter who covers up *lola's saya* in a modern Armani gown and updates her hair and makeup. Not only does it devalue the painting, it also trivializes heritage.

Once the original is lost, it is lost forever. However, many people refuse to realize that the original is always the best. So the list of horrors they inflict on churches goes on.

Security is another church horror. Thieves calmly walk into churches, pluck artifacts and furniture from altars, niches and walls, and take them straightaway to sell on the antique market.

The CBCP urges all parish priests to photograph, measure and document their precious objects to produce an inventory of their treasures.

The purpose is twofold: first is, of course, to have a record; and second is to have proof of ownership. How can a parish claim an artifact was stolen without written and photographic records as evidence of ownership?



THE SIMPLE beauty of the Chavayan chapel in Sabtang Island, Batanes, proves that church heritage need not be grand.

Some bishops have convinced parish priests to temporarily surrender their treasures to a well-secured repository at a central location for safekeeping of their artifacts. This has been successfully done in Vigan, Dagupan, San Fernando (Pampanga), Iloilo and Tagbilaran.

But horrors continue. So many Filipinos are unaware of the laws that protect our heritage. Nor do they know how to properly protect heritage.

It takes a heritage specialist, not a heritage aficionado or a carpentry foreman, to protect heritage scientifically. With the same logic that ophthalmologists should really not remove an appendix, it takes a specialist to take care of heritage issues.

This Holy Week, broaden the Visita Iglesia tradition by great steps. As you reflect on the horrors inflicted by man on Jesus Christ in the Stations of the Cross, take a good look at the religious surroundings. Reflect on the horrors inflicted by man on his church.

This is the season for us to penitently ask divine forgiveness for the damage done by man to churches.

Heritage Watch: Corregidor

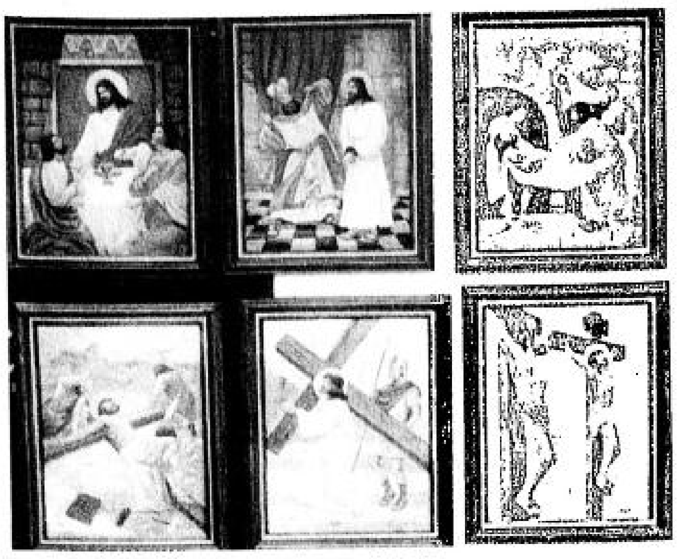
Now floodlit by solar power, the Eternal Flame Memorial commemorating the liberation of the island of Corregidor 60 years ago is probably the first high-tech monument in the country.

The Corregidor Foundation, Inc. and Filipino-American Memorial Endowment, Inc. initiated the project under the auspices of the American Chamber.

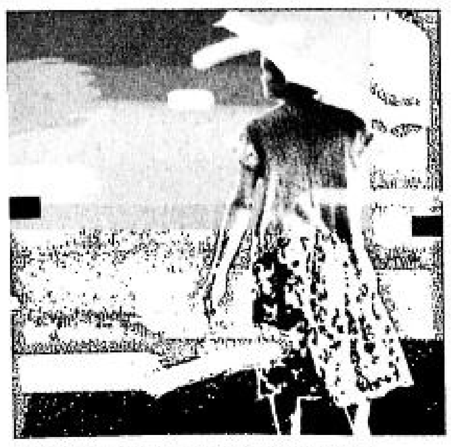
SunPower Philippines, makers of solar cells in Manila, and Cypress Semiconductors, its US-based parent company, donated the floodlighting. U-Freight provided free delivery of equipment to Corregidor from the US.

Visit Corregidor during this week's holiday to soak up sun, history and nature. Board the ferry to Corregidor from the CCP complex and join the tour leaving from the dock a few minutes after arrival on the island.

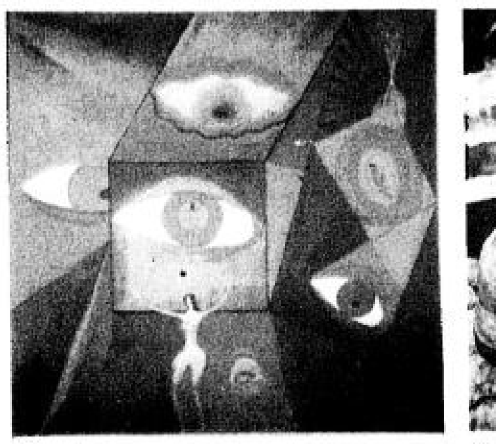
E-mail your feedback to afvillalon@hotmail.com



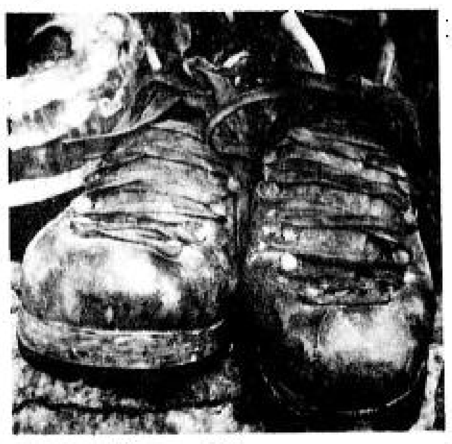
"STATIONS of the Cross," by Fernando B. Sena



"NAMAMAYONG," by Benjie Mallari



"WOMEN Power: Single Mother," by Rafael A. Gonzales



"BOOTS," by Roma Valles

VISUAL ARTS

Levy-Galey at Alliance Francaise, Sena at Saturday Group, Mallari at Conspiracy, '80s artists at Mag:Net

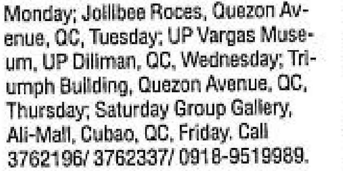
ALLIANCE Francaise de Manille showcases Sophie Levy-Galey's "Zulu-Sulu" on March 31-April 29. She creates abstract pieces in acrylic that reveal her inner workings as a person. Call 8957585/ 8957441.

BENJIE C. Mallari will hold his first solo show of acrylic and mixed-media works, "Women," on April 5 at Conspiracy Garden Cafe. A former art director, and newspaper illustrator and caricaturist, he is now consultant of Meralco. His designs include the murals and mini-museum at the Lopez center in Antipolo City. He also crafted the Meralco centennial commemorative stamp. His latest design is the Meralco Museum in Ortigas Ave.

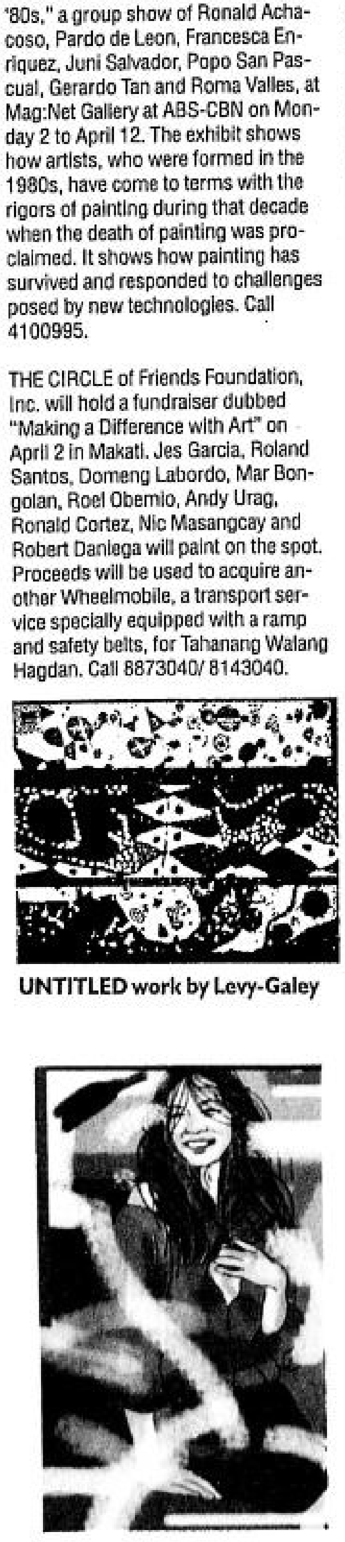
FERNANDO Sena opened yesterday "Semana Santa," a collection of oil paintings of religious icons, at the Saturday Group Gallery (Ali Mall, Cubao, QC). The exhibit runs until April 6. Meanwhile, Sena will hold summer art workshops for children, youth and adults on April 2-May 31 at the following: Philippine Heart Center, East Avenue, QC, Saturday; Philippine Medical Women's Association, V. Luna Road and Malakas St., QC, Sunday; Environmental Studies Institute, Miriam College, Katipunan Avenue, QC, Monday; Jollibee Roces, Quezon Avenue, QC, Tuesday; UP Vargas Museum, UP Diliman, QC, Wednesday; Triumph Building, Quezon Avenue, QC, Thursday; Saturday Group Gallery, Ali-Mall, Cubao, QC, Friday. Call 3762196/ 3762337/ 0918-9519989.

NILO Ilarde curates "Re/Collecting the '80s," a group show of Ronald Achacoso, Pardo de Leon, Francesca Enriquez, Juni Salvador, Popo San Pascual, Gerardo Tan and Roma Valles, at Mag:Net Gallery at ABS-CBN on Monday 2 to April 12. The exhibit shows how artists, who were formed in the 1980s, have come to terms with the rigors of painting during that decade when the death of painting was proclaimed. It shows how painting has survived and responded to challenges posed by new technologies. Call 4100995.

THE CIRCLE of Friends Foundation, Inc. will hold a fundraiser dubbed "Making a Difference with Art" on April 2 in Makati. Jes Garcia, Roland Santos, Domeng Labordo, Mar Bongolan, Roel Obemio, Andy Urag, Ronald Cortez, Nic Masangcay and Robert Daniega will paint on the spot. Proceeds will be used to acquire another Wheelmobile, a transport service specially equipped with a ramp and safety belts, for Tahanang Walang Hagdan. Call 8873040/ 8143040.



UNTITLED work by Levy-Galey



"WOMAN," 4 by Benjie Mallari

RUEL Caasi mounts "Signum" and "Wounds: Revisited" until April 3 at The Drawing Room. "Signum" signals a new turn in Caasi's abstraction while the latter brings his viewers back to his "Wounds" series he started in 1997. The Drawing Room is located at the ground floor, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati. Call 8977877/ 8976990.

THE SALESIANS of Don Bosco, Philippines and the Cultural Center of the Philippines present "Pasyon" until April 10 at Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo, 4th level, CCP Main Building. The exhibit features seven paintings by National Artist Carlos V. Francisco from his "Way of the Cross" series. Call 8323702.

AYALA Museum presents Rafael Gonzales' "Mother Earth and the Sources of Power" on March 29-April 12. The exhibition features works on the environment, energy sources, religion and power. Ayala Museum is located at Makati Avenue and de la Rosa Street, Greenbelt Park, Ayala Center. Call 7577117.

"SKIN Burn Lust" will be mounted on April 4-8 at Gallery One, Faculty Center, Bulwagang Rizal, University of the Philippines, Diliman, QC. The exhibit features the abstract works of Reuben Ramas Cañete, Andrew de Guzman and Mannet Villariba.

LINDSLEE will present his 5th solo show, "Black and Transparent," on April 6-19 at Art Center, SM Megamall. The artist's mixed media works present a diversity of materials. Call 6373101.

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation announces its last call for its Summer Musical Theater and Stage Management Workshops on April 4-May 14 at the rehearsal hall of Concert at the Park auditorium, Luneta, Manila. Call 5365869/ 5280602.

RICCO-RENZO Galleries will hold different art workshops and seminars. Creative Seeing Seminar is slated on April 4-30 and batch 2 on May 2-28. Alternative Art Series, Cartoon Animation I, Basic and Advanced Painting will be held April 4-May 6. Cartoon Animation II is slated on May 3-20. Ricco-Renzo Galleries is located at the ground floor, LRI Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati. Call 8982542 to 43/ 8982545.

MANDY Navasero will hold weekend advanced photography workshop starting April 9. Classes will be held every Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., until May 21. Topics include portraiture, fashion with models, glamour or cover photos, product photography, architectural, travel photography and food photography. Travel photography will include a photo safari in Coron, Palawan on May 12-16. Call 8991767/ 8963208. E-mail mandy-navasero@photopro.com.ph.

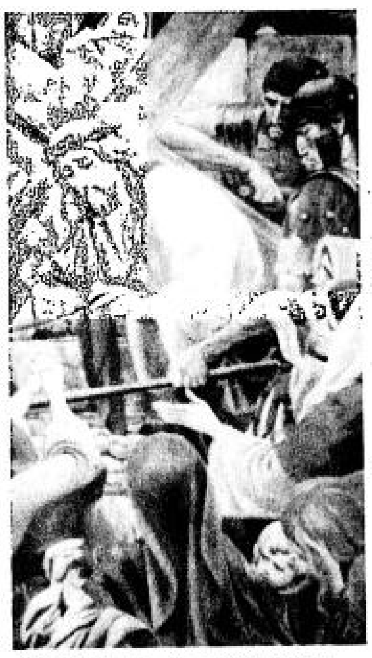
TANGHALANG Parisukat will hold the Intensive Summer Theater Arts Workshop on April 4-May 27. Radio Voice Acting and Dubbing Workshop will be held on April 19 and 22. Call 7132983/ 7162510.

THE FEDERATION of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold a basic painting/art seminar for kids on April 19-22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. Cecilia Angeles, a faculty member of the Fine Arts and English departments of Feati University and Philippine Women's University, will conduct the seminar. Call 8435341/ 8137420.

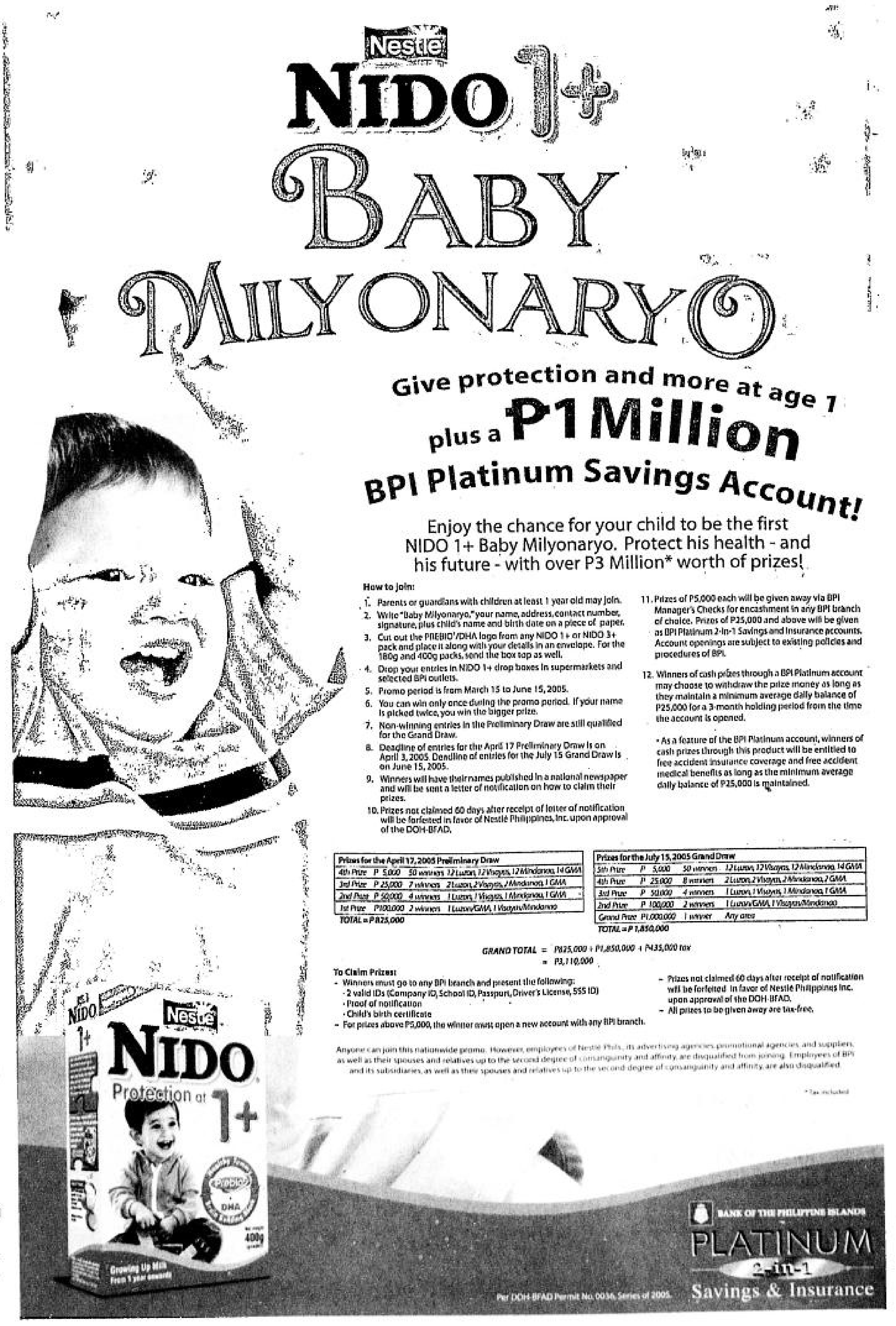
SOLANO CRUZ teaches the basics of drawing and other advanced courses every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at Deovir, 5/F, SM City Manila. Call 5223671.

THE POSITIVISM Art Gallery will conduct a summer art workshop for children and adults starting in April. Call 8112432/ 0927-5522288.

THE NATIONAL Committee on the Centennial of the Feminist Movement in the Philippines, headed by Leonarda Camacho and Myrna Yao, recently held an art exhibit of women artists at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Former first lady Imelda Marcos and CCP president Nestor Jardin headed the guests. Indian Ambassador Navrekha Sharma lit the ceremonial lamp to open the exhibit. The event was attended by the diplomatic corps headed by Thai Ambassador Asha Dvitiyananda and Swiss Ambassador Lise Favre and Ambassador Sharma. National Historical Institute's Emelita Almosara gave the opening prayer while Philippine Women's University dean Rosario Bitanga introduced the 100 artists from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.



"EIGHT Station (Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem)," by Carlos "Botong" Francisco



Nestlé
NIDO 1+
BABY MILYONARYO

Give protection and more at age 1
plus a P1 Million
BPI Platinum Savings Account!

Enjoy the chance for your child to be the first
NIDO 1+ Baby Milyonaryo. Protect his health - and
his future - with over P3 Million* worth of prizes!

How to Join:

1. Parents or guardians with children at least 1 year old may join.
2. Write "Baby Milyonaryo," your name, address, contact number, signature, plus child's name and birth date on a piece of paper.
3. Cut out the PREBIO'/DHA logo from any NIDO 1+ or NIDO 3+ pack and place it along with your details in an envelope. For the 180g and 400g packs, send the box top as well.
4. Drop your entries in NIDO 1+ drop boxes in supermarkets and selected BPI outlets.
5. Promo period is from March 15 to June 15, 2005.
6. You can win only once during the promo period. If your name is picked twice, you win the bigger prize.
7. Non-winning entries in the Preliminary Draw are still qualified for the Grand Draw.
8. Deadline of entries for the April 17 Preliminary Draw is on April 3, 2005. Deadline of entries for the July 15 Grand Draw is on June 15, 2005.
9. Winners will have their names published in a national newspaper and will be sent a letter of notification on how to claim their prizes.
10. Prizes not claimed 60 days after receipt of letter of notification will be forfeited in favor of Nestlé Philippines, Inc. upon approval of the DOH-BFAD.
11. Prizes of P5,000 each will be given away via BPI Manager's Checks for encashment in any BPI branch of choice. Prizes of P25,000 and above will be given as BPI Platinum 2-in-1 Savings and Insurance accounts. Account openings are subject to existing policies and procedures of BPI.
12. Winners of cash prizes through a BPI Platinum account may choose to withdraw the prize money as long as they maintain a minimum average daily balance of P25,000 for a 3-month holding period from the time the account is opened.

• As a feature of the BPI Platinum account, winners of cash prizes through this product will be entitled to free accident insurance coverage and free accident medical benefits as long as the minimum average daily balance of P25,000 is maintained.

Prizes for the April 17, 2005 Preliminary Draw			
4th Prize	P 5,000	50 winners	12 Luzon, 12 Visayas, 12 Mindanao, 14 GMA
3rd Prize	P 25,000	7 winners	2 Luzon, 2 Visayas, 2 Mindanao, 1 GMA
2nd Prize	P 50,000	4 winners	1 Luzon, 1 Visayas, 1 Mindanao, 1 GMA
1st Prize	P100,000	2 winners	1 Luzon/GMA, 1 Visayas/Mindanao

TOTAL = P825,000

Prizes for the July 15, 2005 Grand Draw			
5th Prize	P 5,000	50 winners	12 Luzon, 12 Visayas, 12 Mindanao, 14 GMA
4th Prize	P 25,000	8 winners	2 Luzon, 2 Visayas, 2 Mindanao, 2 GMA
3rd Prize	P 50,000	4 winners	1 Luzon, 1 Visayas, 1 Mindanao, 1 GMA
2nd Prize	P 100,000	2 winners	1 Luzon/GMA, 1 Visayas/Mindanao
Grand Prize	P1,000,000	1 winner	Any area

TOTAL = P 1,850,000

GRAND TOTAL = P825,000 + P1,850,000 + P435,000 tax
= P3,110,000

To Claim Prizes:
- Winners must go to any BPI branch and present the following:
  - 2 valid IDs (Company ID, School ID, Passport, Driver's License, SSS ID)
  - Proof of notification
  - Child's birth certificate
- For prizes above P5,000, the winner must open a new account with any BPI branch.
- Prizes not claimed 60 days after receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of Nestlé Philippines Inc. upon approval of the DOH-BFAD.
- All prizes to be given away are tax-free.

Anyone can join this nationwide promo. However, employees of Nestlé Phils., its advertising agencies, promotional agencies, and suppliers, as well as their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity, are disqualified from joining. Employees of BPI and its subsidiaries, as well as their spouses and relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity, are also disqualified.

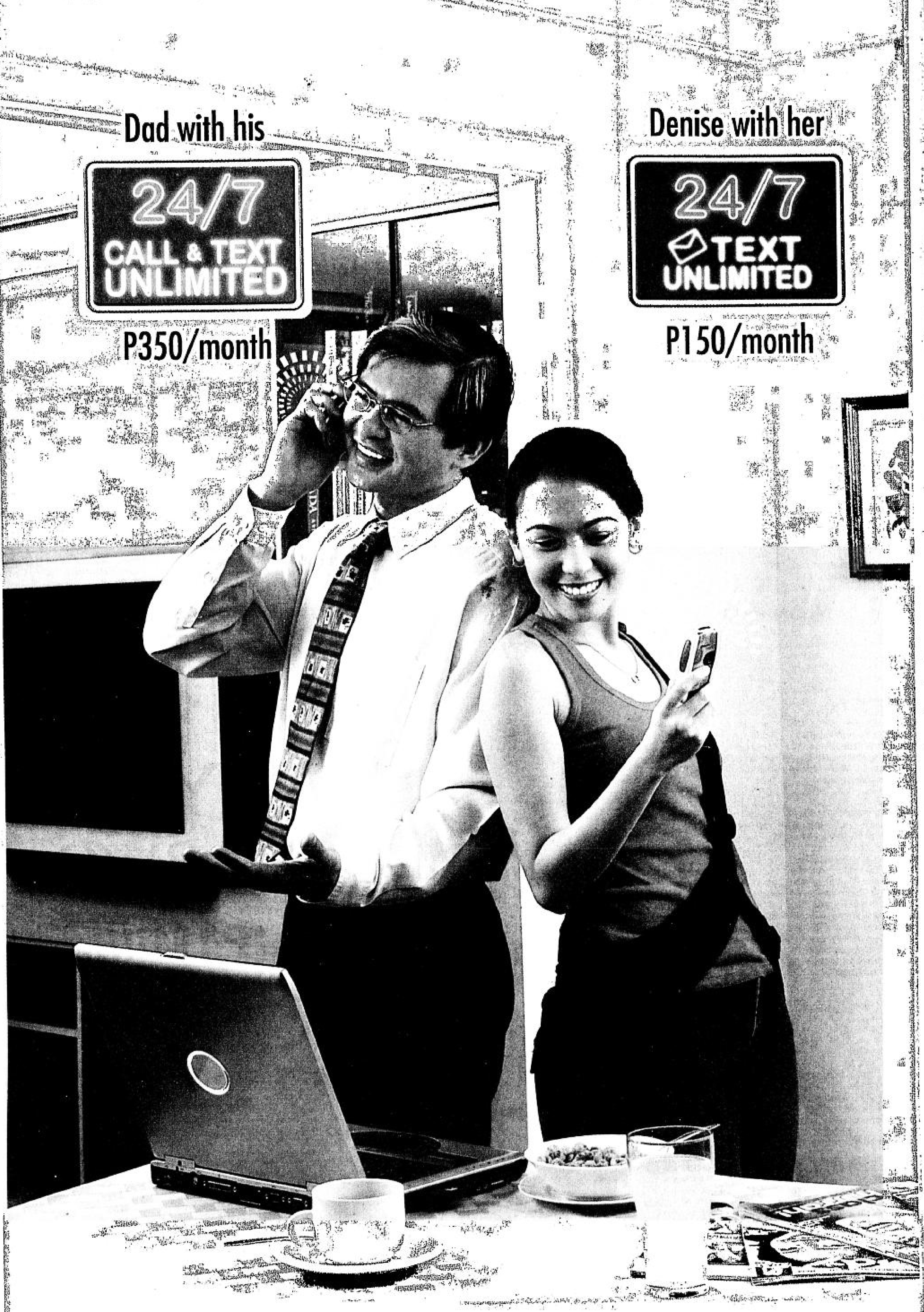
* Tax included

NIDO 1+ Nestlé NIDO Protection at 1+
Growing Up Milk From 1 year onwards
400g

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0036, Series of 2005.

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
PLATINUM
2-in-1
Savings & Insurance

Sun Cellular gives POSTPAID subscribers two ways to enjoy unlimited connection!



Dad with his

24/7 CALL & TEXT UNLIMITED

P350/month

Denise with her

24/7 TEXT UNLIMITED

P150/month

24/7 Text Unlimited lets you enjoy unlimited local Sun to Sun texting. Perfect for students who text all day long!
24/7 Call & Text Unlimited allows you limitless local calling and texting Sun to Sun. Ideal for the hectic lifestyle of professionals on the go!

Apply now and bring with you a Valid ID, POB and POI.

www.suncellular.com.ph
Hotline: (02) 395-8000

Your profile will become I-Text once you enroll in 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited or 24/7 Text Unlimited.

PLAN	350		600		1000		2000		3500	
	I-TEXT	I-SPEAK	I-TEXT	I-SPEAK	I-TEXT	I-SPEAK	I-TEXT	I-SPEAK	I-TEXT	I-SPEAK
Free SMS	250	100	350	200	400	250	600	400	900	500
Airtime Rates										
• Sun to Sun	8.00	6.00	8.00	5.00	6.50	4.50	6.00	4.00	5.00	4.00
• Sun to other mobiles	8.50	6.25	8.50	6.25	8.00	6.50	6.50	5.00	5.50	5.00
• Sun to landline	8.50	6.25	8.50	6.25	8.00	6.50	6.50	5.00	5.50	5.00
NDD	10.00	9.50	10.00	9.50	9.50	9.00	8.00	8.50	9.00	8.50
IDD	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30	$0.30
Regular SMS										
• Sun to Sun	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00
• Sun to other mobiles	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
International SMS	9.00	10.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	10.00
FREE Handsets!	Nokia 1100		Nokia 2300		Nokia 3220 w/ Fun shell cover		Nokia 6170		O2 XDA II Mini	

sun CELLULAR
Everything Important is Under the Sun

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

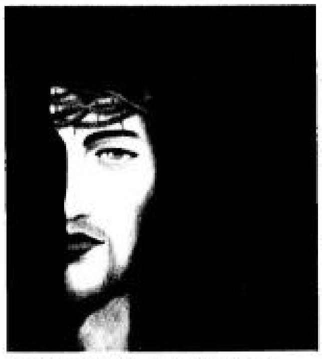
D1

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

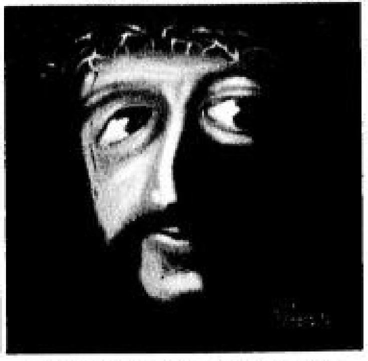
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

SMOOTH & SEXY.
HAIR-FREE
BIKINI LINES.

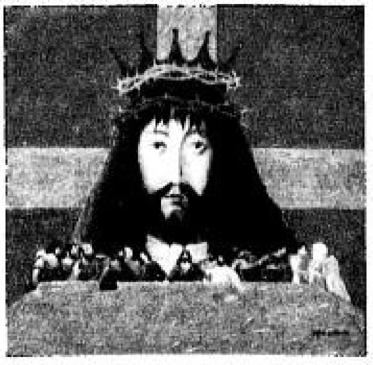
Call the Facial Care
Centre for LaserLight
892 SKIN (7546)



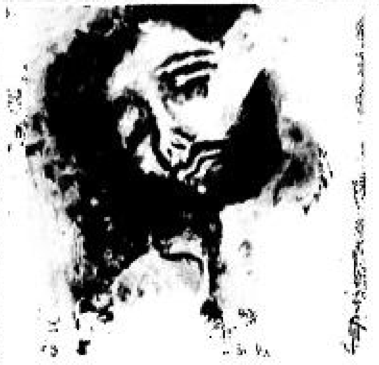
"BEHOLD Thy Son," by Jeff Samonte



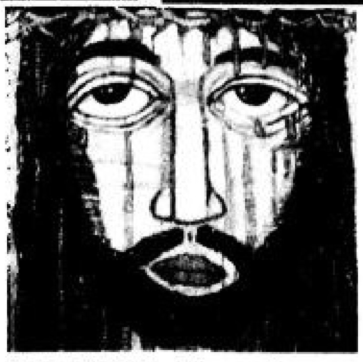
"UNTITLED," by Mark Gonzales



"HARING Kristo," by Norman Dreo



"I AM," by Anton Balao



"BETRAYED," by Venerando Cenizal

The Passions of the Christ

Senior and young artists make artistic meditations on the greatest story ever told

"SABACHTHANI" brings together the country's established and emerging artists in an exhibit that provides individual artistic depictions of the Christ figure.

The exhibit is really inspired by the "Kristo" exhibits in Malolos, Bulacan, annually organized by artist Salvador Ching as part of his *panata* (Lenten vow). He would invite fellow artists to the annual Lenten artistic rite, so that they could show works that serve as their reflections on the passion of Christ.

Seeking to bring to a greater audience the visual form of religious meditation, The Artery group has brought to Manila the annual show through "Sabachthani."

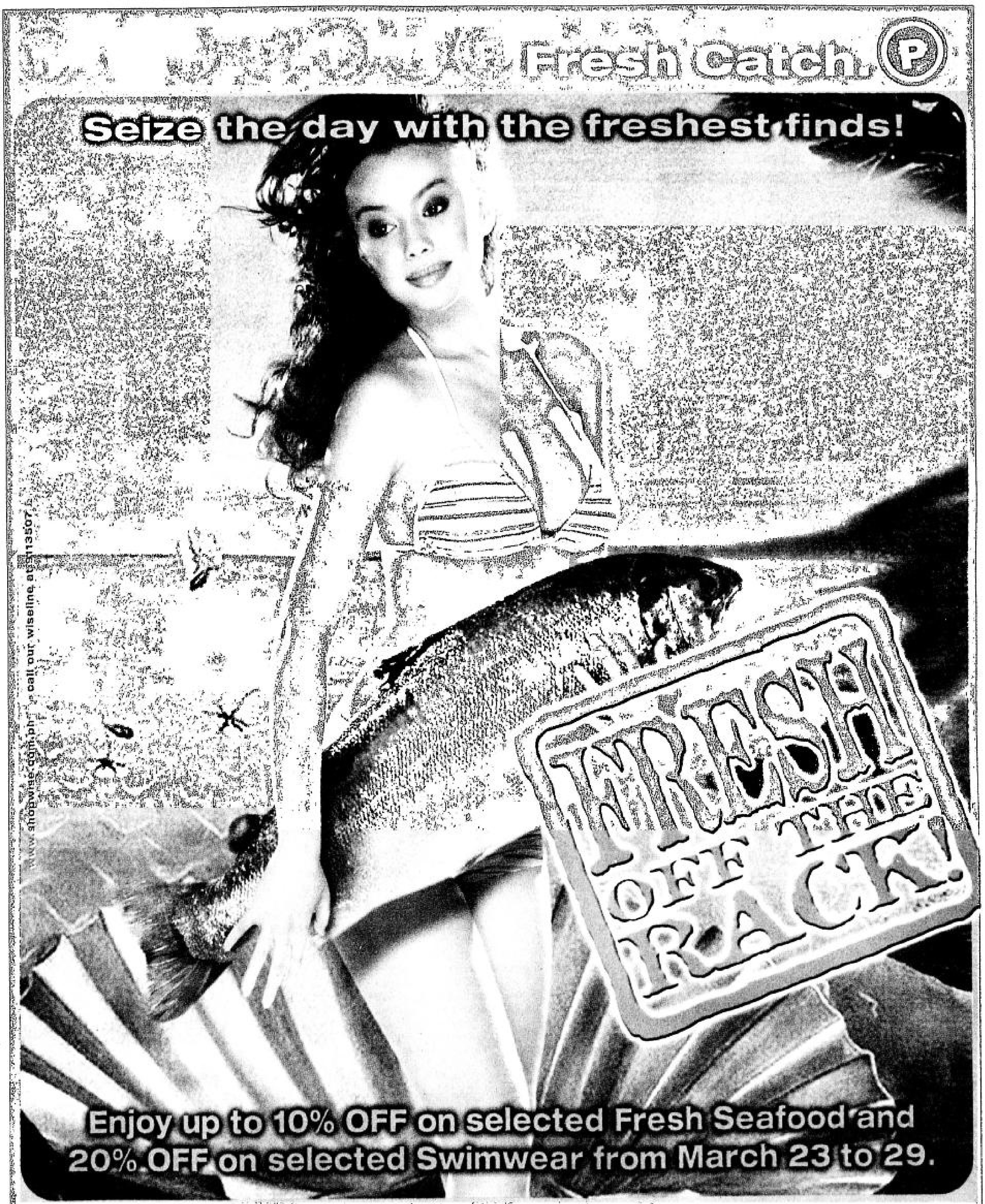
The title refers to one of Christ's last words on the cross: "Thou hast forsaken me." The title is Aramaic, the language that Christ spoke while on the cross, one that even the Pharisees could not understand.

According to Artery, the title serves as a message to devotees, to be taken as though a personal address: that not only during Lent should Christ's sacrifice be remembered. Thus, in their varied renditions, the artists give permanence to the remembrance of Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

Some works that include profanity are not meant to blaspheme, but rather, caution those who do. Especially for the abstractionists and surrealists, transfusing faith into the canvas has given them a channel for the ultimately sublime.

Participating are Renante Alejo, Jun Alvarez, Ral Arrogante, Jo Austria, Aris Bagtas, Anton Balao, Emmanuel Balboa, Joel Bartolome, Reynaldo Bautista, Jeps and Yveese Belen, Art Bermido, Frederic Caedo, Buen Calubayan, Roen Capule, Noel Catacutan, Venerando Cenizal, Salvador Ching, Salvador Convocar, Michael Daniels, Farley Del Rosario, Rolly Dela Cruz, Camille Dela Rosa, Jun Delos Santos, Norman Dreo, Anthony Fermin, Romeo Forbes, Mark Gonzales, Dan Lerma, EG Marquez, Wilfredo Offemaria, Al Perez, Cris Rebutiaco, Tres Roman, Bin, Edmond and Jef Samonte, Ellos and Kate Santos, Fidel Sarmiento, Aner

THE PASSIONS/ D3


Fresh Catch
P
Seize the day with the freshest finds!
FRESH OFF THE RACK!
www.shopwise.com.ph • call our wiseline at 8113507
Enjoy up to 10% OFF on selected Fresh Seafood and 20% OFF on selected Swimwear from March 23 to 29.

Celebrate fresh style, succulent delights and refreshing value as Shopwise brings to you *Fresh Off The Rack!* Enjoy great discounts from the Fresh and Fashion Sections. Keep shopping and get a chance to win up to 5x the value of your Fresh and Fashion purchases in our 5-week long raffle promo.

Savor the freshest fashion at the Shopwise Fresh and Fashion Fair!
Promo Period: March 16 to April 19

PUREFOODS HORMEL

Magnolia

SHOPWISE

The good life you can afford.

See Posters and Flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0594, Series of 2005

NO MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED.

ALABANG Left Wing | Festival Supermall | Filinvest • MAKATI Corner of Pasong Tamo and Vito Cruz Extension • LIBIS 180 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue | Bagumbayan | QC • ARANETA Gen. Aguinaldo Ave. corner Gen. McArthur Ave. | Cubao QC

Visible mysteries in a dim corner

By Constantino C. Tejero

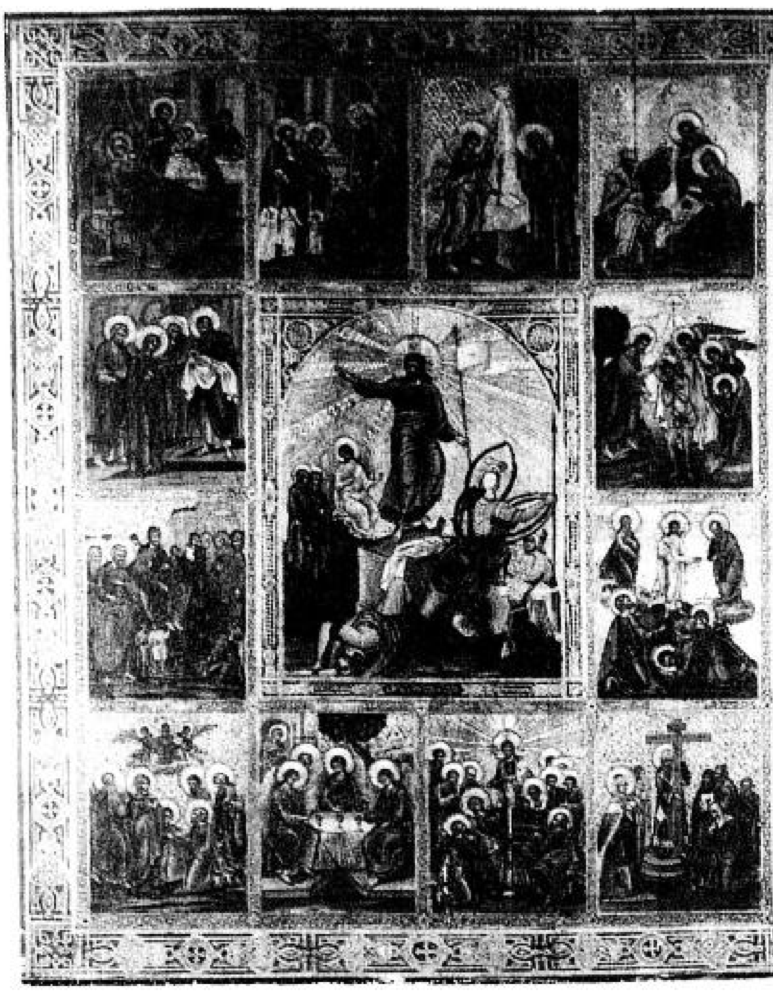
They are a passage between life on earth and the heavenly realm

THEY have been described as "visible mysteries." So when you stumble upon them in a dim corner of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, you quietly protest they don't deserve this shabby treatment.

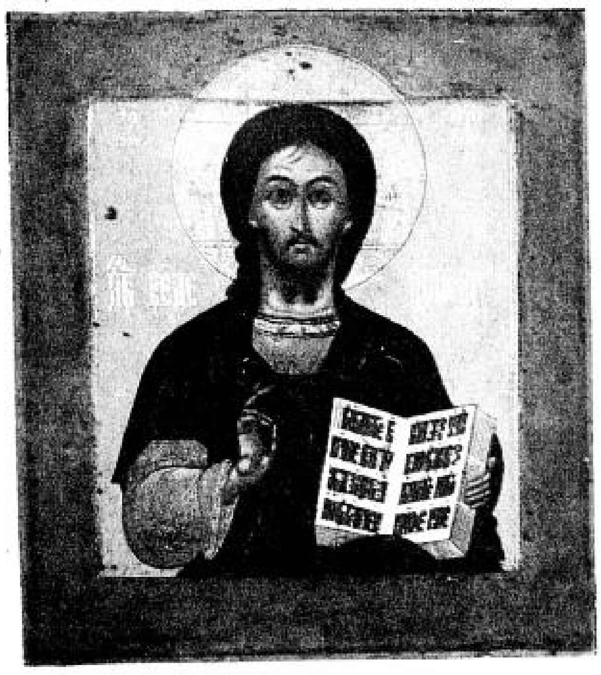
Only when you read this notice that you understand: "The lighting inside the gallery is dimmed for the conservation of the icons. By decreasing the intensity of light, the heat and ultraviolet rays that can damage the material components of the painting (such as paint and varnish) are hindered."

These are images of Christ, the Virgin Mary and the saints, usually portraying events from their lives. They are objects of ritual veneration specific to the Eastern Orthodox Church, for which they are the Gospel made visible—images of the Divine.

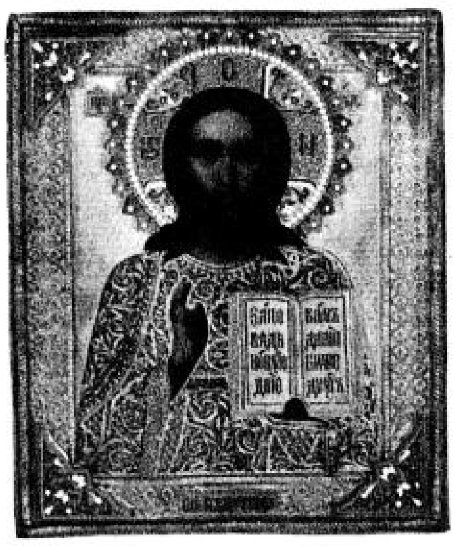
Based on prototypes, the images are painted on wood panels in "brilliant colors, bold brushstrokes, large contrasting shapes and lines drawn without hesitation." They are often inlaid with gold leaf, mounted on sheets of rolled silver or brass, or embellished with varicolored metal cutouts, pearls, corals, semiprecious stones.



ICONOGRAPHY depicting scenes from the life of Jesus



In her foreword to the exhibit catalogue, former First Lady Imelda Marcos swoons: "I am drawn to the luminous tenderness of these icons, for each and everyone of them is love made visible. The gaze of the Madonnas, the tilt in the heads of the Apostles and Evangelists, the attitudes and gestures, and the arrangements of the various figures speak of love, compassionate and everlasting, a love both human and divine."



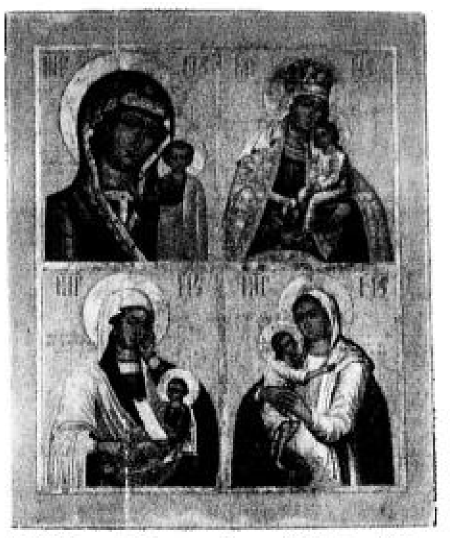
THE SON of God emblazoned with gold and semiprecious stones

Mysterious provenance

These Russian icons have been here in the country for over two decades. When we first saw them displayed in the main gallery of the Met in the early 1980s, we thought they were a traveling exhibit from Europe.

When Edsa I occurred and they didn't left the country, but were instead put under the jurisdiction of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, it dawned on us that they must be owned by the Marcoses.

What we have here is a dazzling sight, literally, then as now—and so numerous you'd think it would be impossible for one person to possess them.



FOUR panels show various attributes of the Mother of God.

So who owns these Russian icons? The Filipino people? We need solid proof, some assurance, before we can crow over this acquisition.

How did these pieces become part of our heritage? How did they come into the hands of the former tenants of Malacañang? Were they acquired legally? And did the Soviet government let them leave their country just like that?

The former First Lady hints at their provenance: "When I visited Moscow for the first time and saw Russian icons in their natural state and surroundings, in the incense-filled darkness of ancient chapels and cathedrals, I was overcome. The more I saw of them in successive visits, the more I hoped I would be able to bring to the Philippines a collection of Russian icons.

"I am grateful to the Soviet authorities whose generosity has made this success possible. To them we owe the fact that we can now view a representative selection of Russian icons, which may be one of the best to be found outside the Soviet Union."

Permanent venue

For two decades after Edsa I, the icons couldn't find a permanent venue at the Met. They kept wandering from gallery to gallery, from corner to corner, like a bereft procession in search of a resting place.

Two years ago, a nook was found. What used to be the museum shop by the stairwell, fronting the audiovisual room and staff office and beside the toilets, was renovated for those images of liturgy, rituals and worship.

So here they are, arrayed in various horizontal levels in the standard manner of the iconostasis, to symbolize the link or passage between life on earth and the heavenly realm. Gazing at them, you forget their dim origin and dimmer lighting.

As the former First Lady affirms with characteristic hyperbole, they "cast a divine light on the mystic labyrinth of faith."

Promil arts camp for gifted children

PROMIL Pre-School offers "Camp ProGifted," a series of workshops designed to nurture a pre-schooler's gift in arts and crafts, reading, acting, singing and dance. Open to children ages 3 to 7, the camp runs from April 4 to May 28.

The art workshop will be facilitated by Art Adventures, a member of the Art-for-Peace Organization. Apart from teaching the basics of arts and crafts, Art Adventures advocates world peace and environmental protection.

Leading the reading workshop are The Reading Teachers (TRT), a pool of reading instructors such as Dina Joana S. Ocampo, who has a doctorate in psychology from the School of Human Sciences, University of Surrey, Guildford, United Kingdom.

Award-winning director-playwright Ma. Kristine Chynna B. Roxas handles the theatre workshop while the Center for Pop Music Philippines will be handling the singing workshop.

Conducting the dance workshop is the Claravall School of Classical Ballet, an affiliate of the Royal Academy of Dance, London.

ProGifted Campers will showcase their special talents in a culminating activity at SM Megamall on May 28.

Registration will be held at the Fountain Area of Market! Market! Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig on Sunday, March 27. While the registration fee is P3,500, participants may avail of the discounted rate of P2,000 by presenting one Promil Pre-School 1.6 kg can, two 900 g can or four 400 g cans.

Call 8920116.

RP's bet to international public speaking tilt

KEVIN Punzalan was recently selected as the Philippine representative to the International Public Speaking Contest by the English Speaking Union (Phils).

He was selected from among the 10 college finalists and three high school students of the Inquirer Intercollegiate Debating Championship, which covered hundreds of colleges and universities from both the public and the private categories.

Punzalan comes from De Le Salle University. Julie Prescott of UP Visayas was declared second placer and Cyris Aquino from University of Santo Tomas was third place. However, since Prescott is a British citizen, Aquino becomes the back-up candidate to Punzalan.

The finalists were given the topic "Differences and Diversity" to work with, which generated much interest in the well-attended contest held at the UP School of Economics Auditorium.

The Philippines' bet last year, Patricia Evangelista, was declared the champion of the international contest, which is held annually in London, United Kingdom. She received her prize from His Royal Highness, Prince Phillip, at Buckingham Palace in the presence of her parents.

The judges came from the ESU Board of Trustees: Ambassador Cesar Bautista, Dr. Jose Dalisay of UP, Prof. Krip Yuson of Ateneo, Ms Gill Westaway of British Council, dean Andy Bautista of FEU, Luigi Bernas of Ayala Foundation and Chichoy Campos of Emilio Aguinaldo College.

They were joined by three former representatives to the IPSC: Mahar Mangahas, Camille Ng and Patricia Evangelista.

The English Speaking Union, which is based in the United Kingdom, aims to improve international understanding through intensive dialogues in English. In the Philippines, it works to enhance the quality of the English language in schools and work places, and to promote the country in international fora as among the best in the world in this field.

Pilipinas Shell is the major sponsor of Punzalan's trip to London, where the finals will be held on May 12.

Victor Bella offers summer art workshops

PAINTER, sculptor and author Victor Bella, who graduated fine arts from the Maastricht Academy of Visual Arts in Holland, will hold the 11th summer drawing and painting workshop for kids and adults.

Have fun, gain new confidence and surprise yourself this summer by learning new crafts you can create for yourself and your loved ones. The drawing portion of the workshop features detailed instruction on how to properly handle various mediums such as pencil, pen and ink, soft pastel and oil pastel.

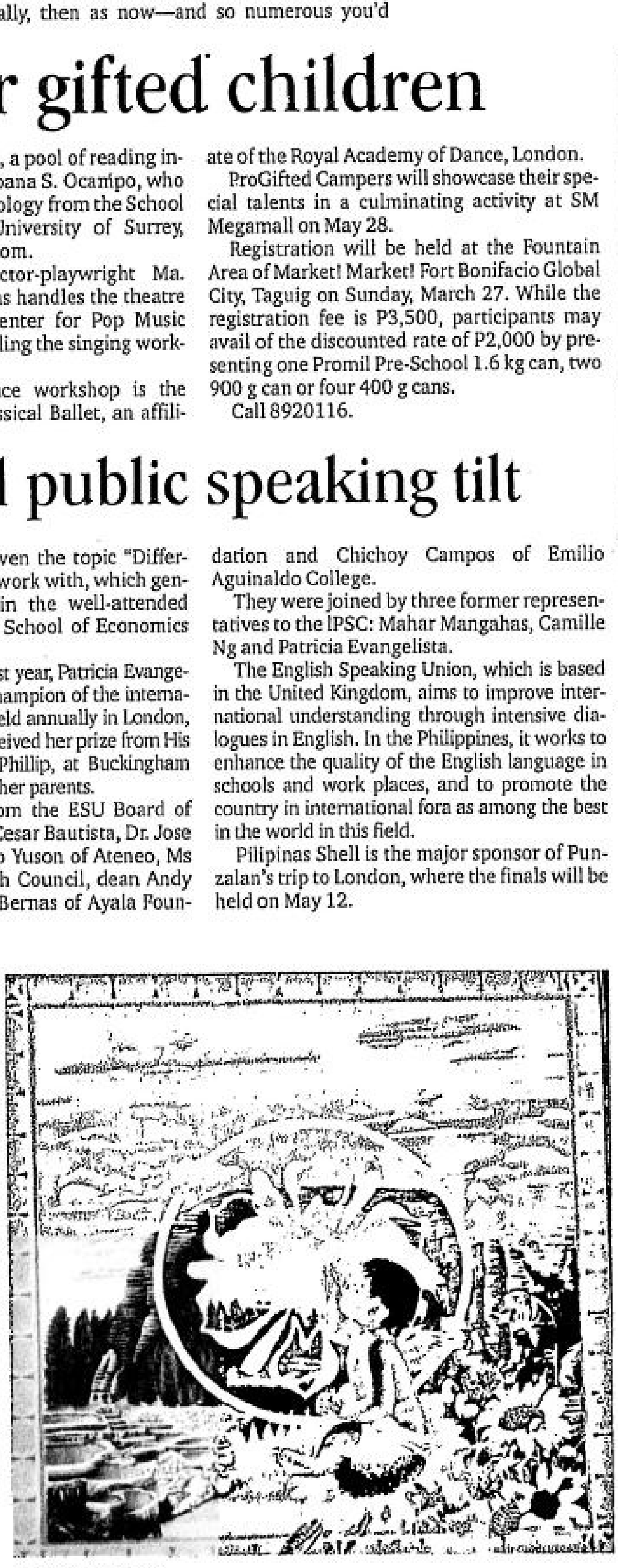
The painting portion teaches easy, systematic procedures on how to handle watercolor, oil and acrylic.

The drawing and painting portions are offered as one class but students may choose to specialize in any drawing and painting medium.

Participants will be taught how to create dramatic, breathtaking still lifes, landscapes, animals, figures, cloudscapes and seascapes and even underwater subjects.

The advanced class covers body part or portrait casting for glow-in-the-dark sculpture, stained glass, acrylic painting and three-dimensional flower dome sculpture.

Visit www.geocities.com/victor_bella. Call 0920-4880029.



BY VICTOR Bella

EL Farol with his wall-bound glass pieces of fleeting images of insects engraved on convex lenses

El Farol in GSIS. Avellana exhibits

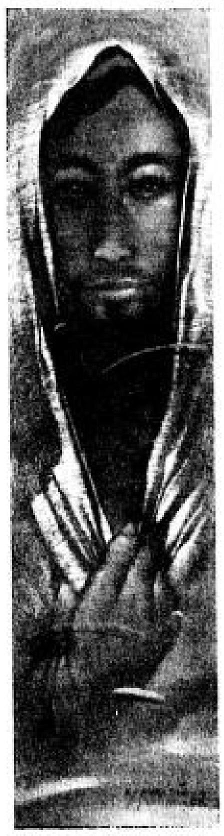
"TENRANKAI" is an exhibition of works by Filipino artists who lived in Japan at the GSIS Museum until April 1. It is part of the Philippine-Japan Festival 2005.

The show features sculptures, prints, photographs and paintings of contemporary artists namely Pandy Aviado, Imelda Cajipe-Endaya, Noel EL Farol, Roberto Feleo, Honrado Fernandez, Sid Hildawa, Junyee, Gerry Leonardo, Ramon Orlina and Roberto Robles.

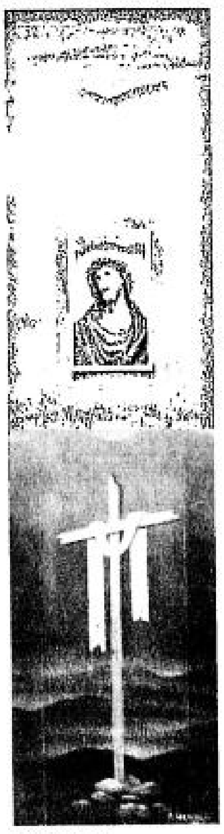
Meanwhile, EL Farol is also featured in a show at Avellana Gallery (2680 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City; tel. 8338357). In "Glassbound," the artist uses convex lenses with engraved delicate natural elements and Petri dishes that store and display biological or scientific remains that seem to have survived natural history.

EL Farol represented Philippines in 19th Asian International Art Exhibition in Fukuoka, Japan last November. He has been invited to represent the Philippines this April in the International Glass and Ceramics Art Festival to be held in Aichi Prefecture, Japan as part of Japan Expo 2005 celebration.

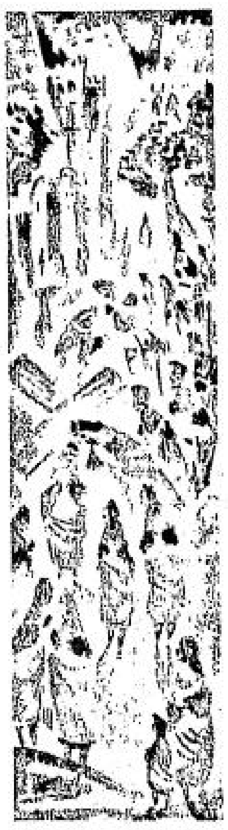
The show is sponsored by Philfeja and GSIS Museum.



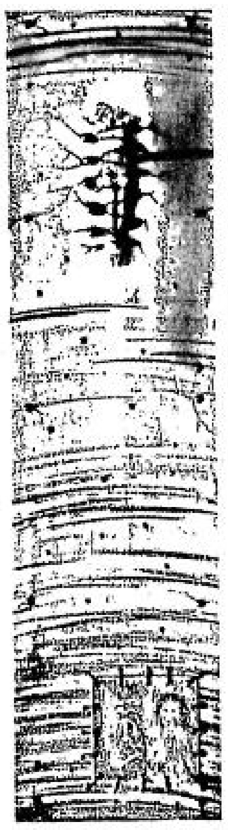
"ECCE HOM___," by Wilfredo Offemaria



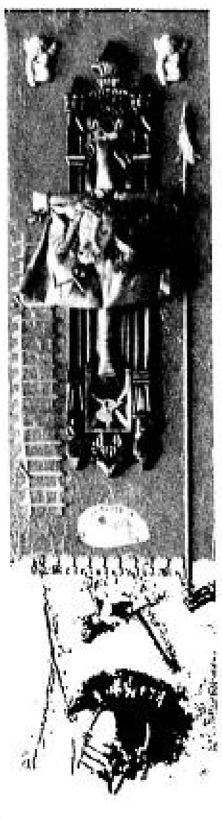
"KRUS ng Paagkabayubay," by Fidel Sarmiento



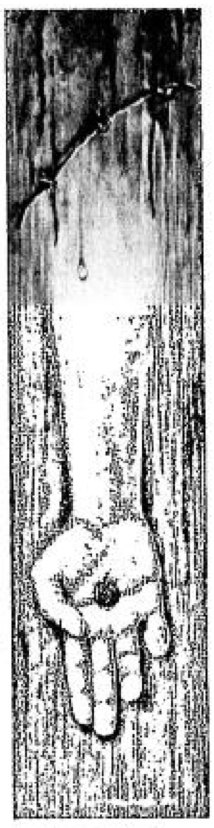
"JESUS Meets the Sorrowful," by Anthony Fermin



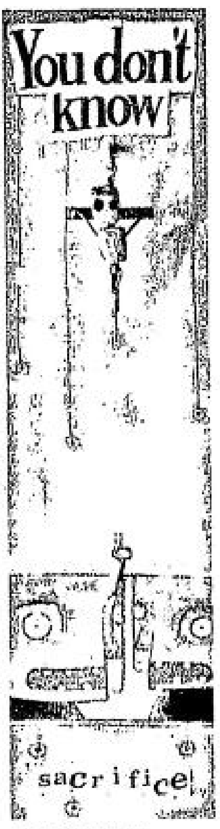
"INA," by Salvador Ching



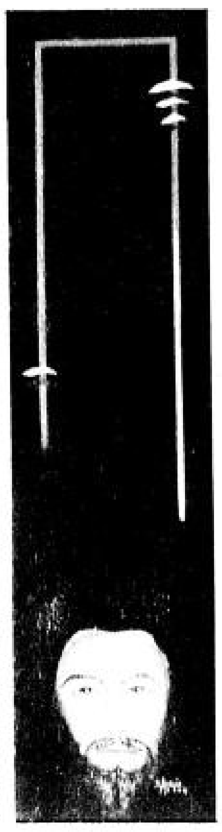
"IT IS Finished," by Ral Arrogante



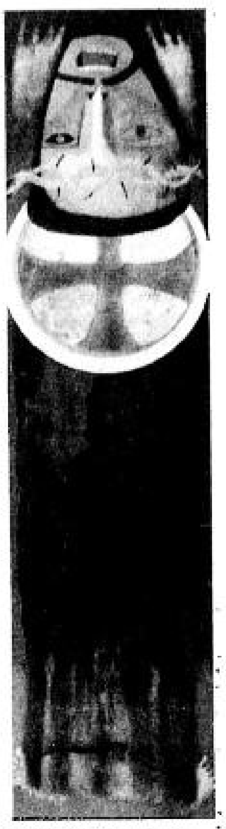
"TUBOS," by Rex Tatlonghari


You don't know
sacrifice

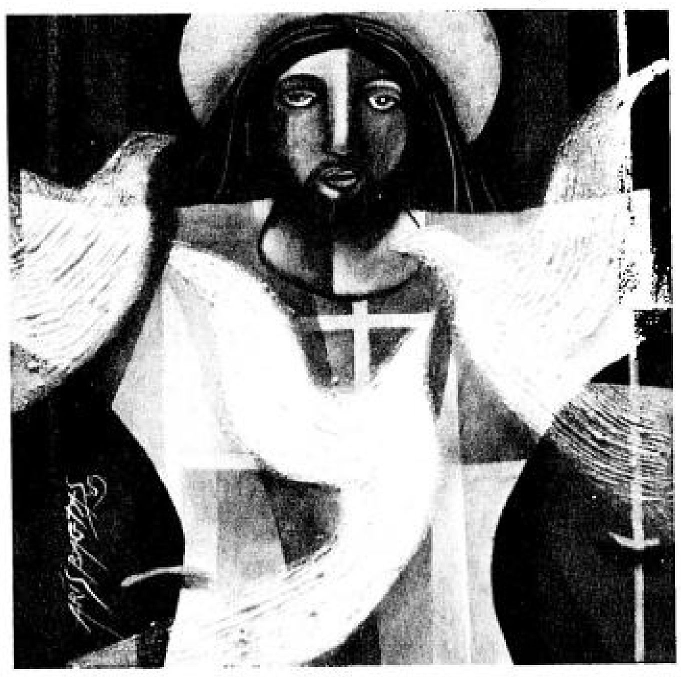
"YOU THINK Y___," by Farley del Rosario



"MUKHA," by Renante Alejo



"KRUS," by Romeo Forbes



"RISEN Christ," by Aris Bagtas

The Passions of the Christ

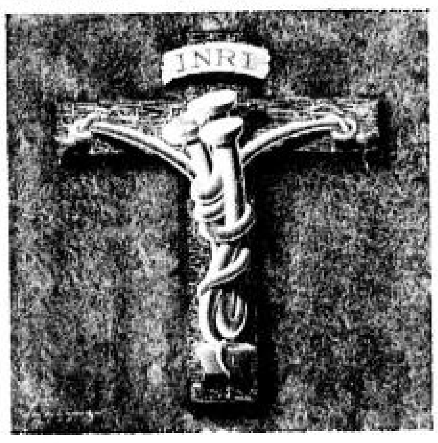
From page D1

Sebastian, Christian Tamondong, Rex Tatlonghari, Gonzalo Uy, Dario Villaceran and Emmanuel Villariba.

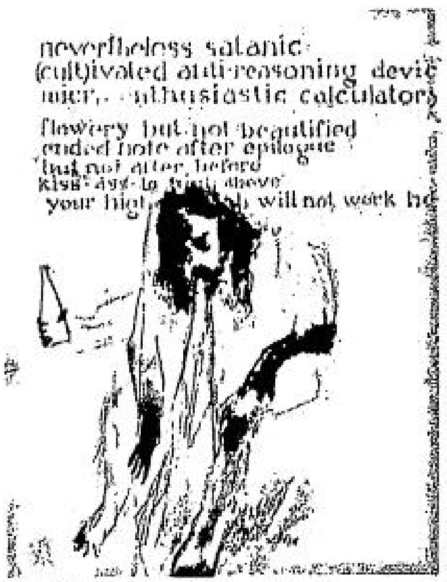
The exhibit is curated by Ms. Jocelyn Tullao of the University of Santo Tomas Museum of Arts and Sciences. Tullao obtained her Fine Arts degree at the UST College of Fine Arts and Design and her Master's in Cultural Heritage Studies at the UST Graduate School after an internship at the Cleveland Museum of Art, United States.

All works have been priced uniformly at P7,000. Part of the show's proceeds will benefit the Society of the Divine Word Retreat Healing Ministry headed by Fr. Eduardo Fugoso, SVD.

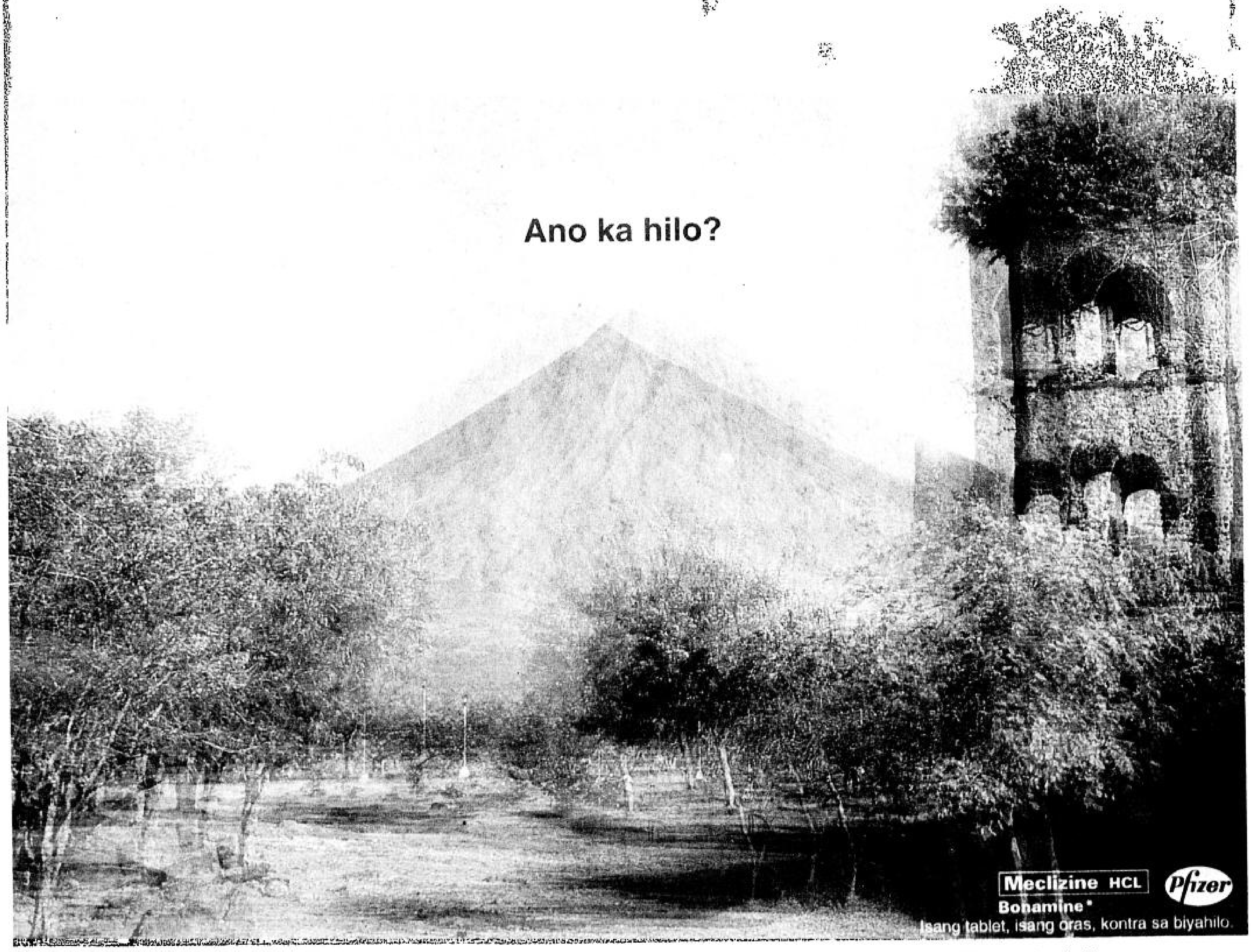
"Sabachthani" runs until March 27 at Gallery Nine in SM Megamall. Call 687-7302.



"TRES," by Rolly de la Cruz


nevertheless satanic
(cult)ivated anti-reasoning devic
enthusiastic calculators
flowery but not beautified
ended note after epilogue
but not after, before
your high will not work he

"SICK Jesus for Sick People," by Buen Calubayan



Ano ka hilo?
Meclizine HCL
Pfizer
Bonamine®
Isang tablet, isang oras, kontra sa biyahilo.

Lalo na pag road trip with the whole barkada ngayong summer, dapat nag-Bonamine Chewables ka!
Happiness pa ang trip. Isang tablet, iwas ang biyahilo. Biyahe na with Bonamine!

Arts and crafts at NBS

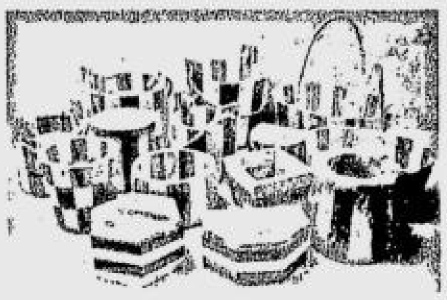
NATIONAL Book Store gives you the chance to release your inner artist by decorating wonderfully crafted boxes and buckets in your own unique style. Selected branches of National Book Store will become venues of artistic expression and creative fun, where you

can purchase these items and paint them at your leisure. National Book Store will provide you with all the paint and brushes you'll need.

These painting sessions will be open to the public at selected National Book Store outlets starting March 12 to April 24.

Visit NBS SM Manila on March 11, 12 and 13, NBS Glorietta on March 18, 19 and 20, NBS North Edsa on April 1, 2 and 3, NBS Alimall on April 22, 23 and 24, NBS Alabang on March 12 and 13, NBS Quezon Avenue on March 19, 20, April 8, 9 and

10, NBS Market! Market! on April 2 and 3, NBS Greenbelt on April 9 and 10, NBS Filinvest on April 16 and 17 and NBS Shangri-la on April 15, 16, 17, 23 and 24.



hub

BE FIRST.

COVER STORY:

SAMSUNG D500
GSM Association
Best Mobile Handset for 2005.*

Be acclaimed.

Samsung's smallest phone with a 1.3 megapixel camera. Incorporates all of Samsung's leading technology: Bluetooth, email, and syncML connectivity. A speakerphone with enhanced voice clarity. An MP3 music player, 262K TFT screen, 64 polyphonic ringtones and 96MB of internal user memory.

Free at G Plan 2500. Comes with the G Plan Opti-SIM.
Now with MyGlobe personalization.

Audio Accolades!
Get a Limited Edition Samsung Yepp MP3 Player* for every purchase of a Samsung D500 with any new G Plan.
Promo period is from March 20 to April 10, 2005.
Minimum two-year subscription for all plans.
*Storage Device Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1587, Series of 2005.

*www.gsmworld.com/awards/winners.html

Get the genuine unit only at the HUB, Rockwell, Greenbelt, Glorietta, The Podium, Greenhills www.hub-eshop.com

SAMSUNG Globe HANDYPHONE

PRO-LIFE doctor's advocacy /E2

The devil in M. Scott Peck

The psychiatrist and author of the best-selling 'Road Less Traveled' reveals in his new book his work as an exorcist

By Lito B. Zulueta

IN "GLIMPSES of the Devil" (Free Press, 2005), popular author M. Scott Peck takes not only a road less traveled as far as psychiatrists and other men of science like him are concerned, but also a road never traveled. In tackling the taboo of demonic possession and admitting that he took part in exorcisms, he exposes himself to more than gentle ribbing from colleagues who feel that the devil is a medieval hangover. But it is to Peck's credit that he's a writer of the deepest conviction. Evil exists, he seems to say, and I would wager with the devil on that.

Readers familiar with Peck's works are not exactly shocked at this book. After all, they had more than an inkling of the psychiatrist's predisposition toward evil and exorcism in "People of the Lie," his second book after he broke into best-sellerdom through "The Road Less Traveled" in 1978. "Lie" was a surprising follow-through to "Road," which mainly tells readers to have no illusions about life, but just the same to meet its challenges head on by discipline and clear-eyed realism.

Surprising because for all of its matter-of-factness, its curious mixture of psychology and spirituality, "Road" became one of the biggest inspirational classics in the last 20 years, while "Lie," which became another best-seller, is not exactly one to inspire and move; it shows evil as a sinister, dark presence that casts a pall on good intentions and resolutions.

"Lie" talks about the reality of evil, a metaphysical (the post-modernist would derisively say "ontotheological") conception that does not exactly dovetail either with a psychiatrist's positivism or a sun-sunny evangelical Christian's belief in justification by faith alone.

In one of the more frightening cases in the book, Peck talks about a young man who suffered depression after witnessing the suicide of his older brother. In psychotherapy, Peck discovered that the young man's parents gave him the gun that had been used in the suicide as a Christmas gift. When confronted about it, the parents simply dismissed their apparent insensitivity, insisting that they only gave him the best gift that they could afford. Peck calls the parents' insensitive act as an instance of evil operating in the dull routine of everyday life, subtle yet insidious.

The parents are an example of the "people of the lie," persons in constant denial of their deception and deceptiveness because of their sheer narcissism and selfishness.

Peck briefly discussed demonic possession and exorcism in "Lie," but it is in "Glimpses" that he sets out to discuss not only evil as a pervasive reality, but also the devil's operations in psychologically impaired people.

Peck has always been a spiritually inclined writer, someone who has one ear on spiritual-mystical literature and another on Freud and Jung, but it is only in "Glimpses" that one learns he has been into the study of demonic possession for quite a long time. In fact, he got immersed in it right after writing "Road" in 1978.

And he came to that "road" in a quite serendipitous way. He informs us in "Glimpses" that when his publishers sent out the manuscript of "Road" to other writers for promotional blurbs, only one responded—Malachi Martin—the former Jesuit who wrote the novel, "The Final Conclave," non-fiction works on Vatican and geopolitics, and "Hostage to the Devil," which documents five cases of demonic possession and exorcism, Peck sought out Martin, read his book, and became intrigued. It was the start of a beautiful friendship.

Martin fed Peck's interest on demonic possession and became some sort of a spiritual guide to Peck. A Buddhist, Peck had found himself drifting to Christianity while writing "Road" and made up his mind later after meeting Martin, allowing himself to be baptized in a non-denominational church.

He writes that he was surprised Martin did not convert him to Catholicism. (Martin told him, "Ever since we first met I have known-even before baptism—that you were, without question, a member of the Church Invisible.") Not much later, Martin referred to him several cases, one of them, Jersey's, turning out to be the real thing. It was only later that Peck realized that Martin was training him to be an exorcist.

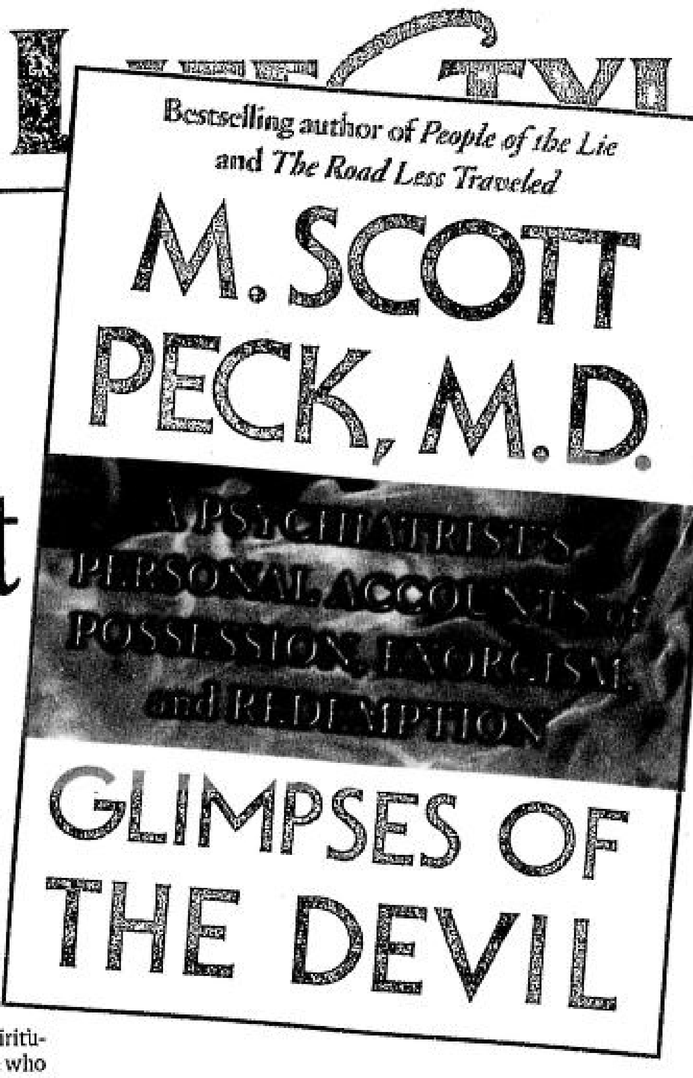
Jersey and Beccah

The case of Jersey is one of two discussed in the book. A dutiful and caring mother in her 20s, she had suddenly become irresponsible and irritable, devoting her time to psychic meetings and other occult arcana, like astral projection. She later woke up after a nightmare and claim to be possessed. Her Protestant mother brought her to Catholic authorities who affirmed the possession but directed her for psychotherapy first before an exorcism.

When Peck talked to her, she expressed sympathy for the "weak and pathetic creatures" that were supposedly within her. Peck realized the possession might be true and Jersey was not self-delusional. Her description did not fit with standard psychopathology since it would seem affected people would invent scary, revolting creatures rather than weak ones as their possessors.

She was a person taken by the lie of Satan: "Only as I delved into

THE DEVIL/ E2


Bestselling author of People of the Lie and The Road Less Traveled
M. SCOTT PECK, M.D.
A PSYCHIATRIST'S PERSONAL ACCOUNTS of POSSESSION, EXORCISM, and REDEMPTION
GLIMPSES OF THE DEVIL

THE CONSUMERS' CHOICE
Kancura Herbal Tea
100% Pure Slimming Power
Available at mercury drug

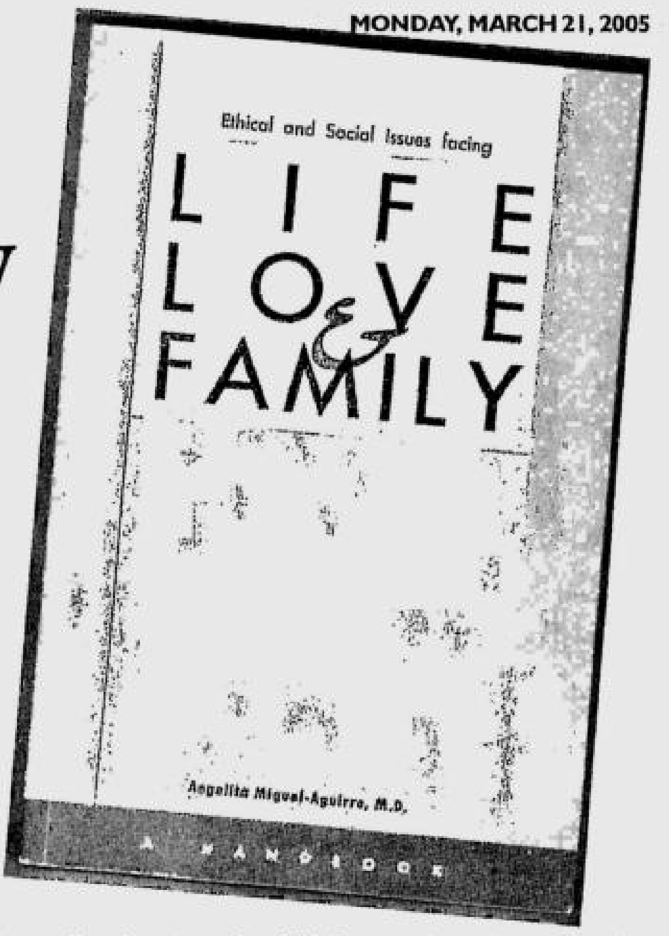
Kenny Rogers Roasters
NEW
LARGE CUT FRIES
₱45 ONLY
BIG ON SIZE! BIG ON CRUNCH! BIG ON TASTE!
Enjoy with
• Garlic Mayo
• Cheese dip

Dermstrata Happy skin, Happy you
Botox Treatment • Mesotherapy • Facials • Spa
50% OFF Warts removal (w/ Free Facial)
Park Square 2 Makati/8159667 * Ever Gotesco Commonwealth/9526421 * SM Manila/5229997 * Facial Glow by DermStrata, SM Manila/4042370 * Festival Supermall * Annapolis Greenhills/7244082 * Isetann/7363781 * Market! Market! Global City/7582203 * Novaliches Shopping Mall/9399018 * Robinsons' Fairview/9389667 * SM Bacoor/(046)4173050 * SM Cagayan de Oro /(088)8591167 * SM Dasmariñas/(046)4323043 * SM Marilao/(044)2388045 * SM Pampanga/(045)9616962 * SM Southmall/8064319 * SM Centerpoint/7153988 * Sta. Lucia East/6818491
CINDY KURLETO, Model, Actress, V

A doctor's prescriptions on life, love and family

By Nicolo F. Bernardo
Contributor

Learn from Uncle Sam, physician-bioethicist Angelita Miguel Aguirre writes. He may have condoms in his pocket, but also has 1.5 million abortions a year and a million HIV-AIDS cases and counting.


Ethical and Social Issues facing
LIFE LOVE & FAMILY
Angelita Miguel-Aguirre, M.D.
A HANDBOOK

SO THE COUNTRY'S legislators decided to shelve the population control bill this Holy Week. A healthy reading to enlighten—or mortify—them for the holiday had just been launched by the pro-life Human Life International-Asia last week.

"The Ethical and Social Issues Facing Life, Love and Family: A Handbook" (published by Human Life International-Asia, 2005) by Dr. Angelita Miguel-Aguirre, bioethics committee chair of the Makati Medical Center, is a selection of articles and talks published and delivered around the country. A successful wife, mother, and community leader, Aguirre cracks down hard on the "population myth" and shows how it affects the bed and the home.

DR. ANGELITA Miguel-Aguirre

Scholarly yet light-handed, the book suits the academic background of the writer, an international medicine scholar of the American Field Service, a cardiolist of the Heart Center and UST Hospital, and a professor in the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. The author is known for lobbying against the abortive tetanus toxoid vaccine back in 1995 as member of an ad hoc committee by the Philippine Medical Association. Her tome is informative and graphic, with comical strips from INQUIRER cartoonist Jess Abrera.

Overpopulation myth

The book starts with a comment on the millennium edition of the New York Times, which declared overpopulation as "one of the myths of the 20th century." It then proceeds to detail the studies of Nobel-winning economist Gary Becker that show densely populated sites actually tend to be better off with human capital. Singapore and South Korea are among the progressive countries with higher population densities than the Philippines, Aguirre writes, and which now pay couples to have for more babies, alarmed as they are with birth dearth.

But alas, western and other industrialized countries are having a difficult time convincing couples to have more children since they have been conditioned by the contraceptive and abortive mentality that kids are a burden, Aguirre writes.

The population growth and fertility rate of the country, like the rest of the world, is declining too, Aguirre writes, and would soon hit replacement level. Impose population control more and we would have more oldies than babies, more dependents than workers, more coffins than cradles.

Aguirre, citing the Chaos theory, says that population, like nature, has its own ways of seeking equilibrium. Tampering with it spells trouble.

Fasting and abstinence

The doctor-author laments how the women have been used as guinea pigs to risky contraceptives by anti-mommyhood interest groups. "She is a person with dignity and fertility," Aguirre writes, stressing the need for husbands to work out non-genital ways of lovemaking, and to respect women's fertile bodies through natural family planning.

Before you pop the pill and wear rubbers, Aguirre advises, think of the side effects and the high contraceptive failure rates. The No. 1 birth control, the hormone-raging pill, causes breast and cervical cancers, as well as high blood pressure and blood clots, she warns. IUDs pierce the uterine wall and cervix, and give backaches, vaginitis and endometrisis. To be just and fair to your hubby and kids, she warns, better not take contraceptives.

And to have healthy sex life, learn from Uncle Sam, Aguirre says. He may have condoms in his pocket, but he also got 1.5 million abortions and one million illegitimate babies per year, as well as one million—and counting—HIV infections.

Aguirre shows how contraceptives fail to deliver. They only encourage "overconfident" sex, ergo more chances of STD and pregnancies, she writes. Sex is an expression of one's inmost self, too, she adds, and should not be done casually and mindlessly.

Meanwhile, this family counselor blames the "commodification of the child"—in and out of the womb—for child abuse. Aguirre points out that abortion doesn't end the problem. Post-abortion syndrome—manifested in body pains, depression, infertility, suicidal impulse, and nightmares—follow "safe" abortion. Children are unique from conception, and she tells parents to guard them lovingly and intelligently toward adulthood. Parents should allow children to grow, she adds.

While some of the inputs are repetitive and hard-wired to Catholic readers, the book challenges everyone's deep-seated thoughts on population, sex, and romance. In her avant-garde book, science again meets sex, but this time, transcends the clinic and reaches out to faith, humanity and good sense.

To order the book, call 9266177 or e-mail voices4life@yahoo.com.

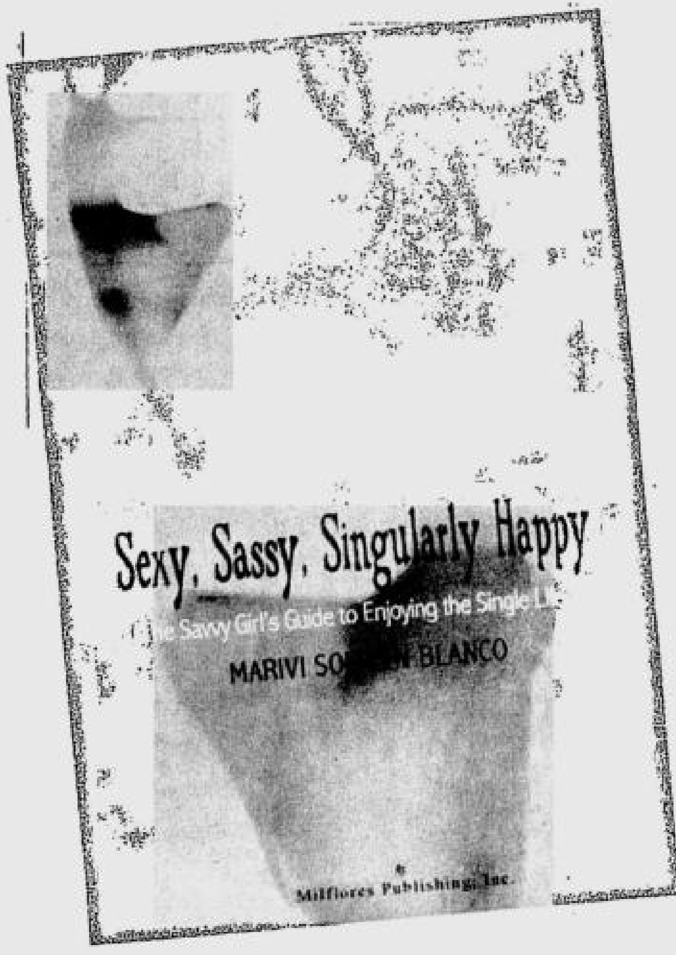
20 writing fellows to UP workshop named

LIKHAAN: The UP Institute of Creative Writing (UP ICW) has named 20 writers from all over the country as fellows to the 44th UP National Writers Workshop to be held on March 27 to April 9 at the Inn Rocio in Baguio City. The workshop theme is "Panitikan at Globalisasyon."

From a total of 125 applicants, the chosen ones are: Fiction in English: Billy T. Antonio (City College of Urdaneta), Carljoe M. Javier (UP Diliman), Michelle C. Sia (DLSU Manila) and Ana Maria Socorro G. Villanueva (DLSU Manila); Fiction in Filipino - Dennis Andrew S. Aguinaldo (UP Diliman), Ma. Regina L. Marcos (UP Diliman), Errol A. Merquita (UP Mindanao) and Chuckberry J. Pascual (UP Diliman); Poetry in Filipino: Dexter B. Cayanes (UP Diliman), Jaime Dasca Doble (Asia Pacific Film Institute), Emmanuel V. Dumlao (UP Los Baños) and Maricristh T. Magaling (UP Diliman); Poetry in English: Catherine L Candano (AdMU), Arkaye Kierulf (AdMU), Lourdes Marie S. La Viña (UP Diliman), Ma. Virginia M. Torres (UP Diliman); Poetry in Bikol: Jocelyn Alarcon Bisuña (Ateneo de Naga University) and Victor Dennis T. Nierva (AdNU); Drama: Layeta P. Bucoy (UP Los Baños) and Mae Angelica Therese Heruela (UP Diliman).

For the first week the teaching staff are: Victor Emmanuel D. Nadera Jr. (UP ICW director), Joi Barrios (workshop director), Amelia Lapena-Bonifacio, José Y. Dalisay Jr., Bienvenido Lumbera, Carla M. Pacis (workshop coordinator), Roland B. Tolentino, Ricardo M. de Ungria and Rene O. Villanueva; and for the second week: Nadera, Barrios, Gémino H. Abad, Virgilio S. Almario, J. Neil C. Garcia, Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Charlson L. Ong and Jun Cruz Reyes.

The fellows are requested to confirm their participation. Call 9221830.


Sexy, Sassy, Singularly Happy
The Savvy Girl's Guide to Enjoying the Single Life
MARIVI SOLIVEN BLANCO
Milflores Publishing, Inc.

Milflores releases unique bible for single women

MILFLORES Publishing Inc. has released "Sexy, Sassy, Singularly Happy: The Savvy Girl's Guide to Enjoying the Single Life" by Marivi Soliven Blanco.

Single women can now forget about waiting forever for Prince Charming. They can read this book and learn how to avoid dressing like someone who has missed the Love Boat; how to date with as much verve and nonchalant aplomb as any red-blooded man; and how to fill out their lives with fascinating interests and activities that only single women have the time and energy to pursue.

They will also split their sides laughing at the book's outrageous humor while learning how to enjoy their blessed single situation through golden tips and nuggets of information.

"Sexy, Sassy, Singularly Happy" is also a must-read for all men who need to understand how liberated modern young women perceive the world and their place in it.

Marivi Soliven Blanco won first prize for fiction in the 1998 Free Press Literary Awards. She taught English and creative writing classes at UP Diliman, holds a B.A. in Mass Communications from the UP, and an M.A. in teaching from the Simmons College in Boston. She moved to California in 1996 and is the author of the best-selling "Suddenly Stateside: Funny Essays on Pinoy Life in America."

"Sexy, Sassy, Singularly Happy" is available at all National Book Stores, PowerBooks, Books for Less and other major bookstores at P350 per copy.

Call 7216431 or e-mail milflores@pacific.net.ph

The devil in M. Scott Peck

From page E1

the subject of demonology did I learn that in believing her demons to be weak and pathetic, Jersey was the victim of a demonic lie."

The exorcism of Jersey is not as dramatic as the ones presented in "The Exorcist" or "Possessed"—no levitation, psychokinesis, no furniture volleying around by an invisible force, no metamorphosis of the patient into something revolting. But it is gripping reading nonetheless, especially since Peck and his team would feel an alien presence in the room and Jersey would suddenly assume a very taut, tight skin that Martin confirmed he had seen in other possessed persons. Peck also writes that Jersey showed expressions in the course of the exorcism that were "blatantly satanic."

Looking at the videotape of the incident many years later, Peck writes he was surprised the expression was not evident, except for a few seconds of transformation that was "even more dramatic and inexplicable—and horrible."

The other case is more malevolent. Beccah was a woman who became manifestly possessed in her 40s. Born a Jew, Beccah had an intense hatred of her mother whom she called an evil woman (with some justification) and married a Jew who, agreeing with her that they should be Christians, compelled her to go along with him to the Episcopalian church because "it's good for business" (the Episcopalian is the establishment church in America). She also developed a hatred of him that might owe to the fact that she willingly joined her in illegal trading, netting for them much money.

Feeling revolted at herself for going back to trading (perhaps a form of addiction), Beccah attempted many times to kill herself. It is at this point that Peck came into the picture and arranged for an exorcism that proved twisted and tortuous.

'Diabolical obsession'

Peck's conclusions at these encounters navigate between the scientific and the mystical. On the one hand, he complains that the standards for exorcism set by the Roman Catholic Church, the only institution to have made a science out of the devil and its operations, are too tough, such as the requirement of totally inexplicable supernatural phenomena.

M. SCOTT Peck

"While these criteria have validity, I believe they should be enlarged to include more soft signs of the paranormal," Peck writes. He also suggests that demonic possession be included in the list of psychological disorders. He said that too often, psychiatrists would label possession as multiple personality disorder (MPD): "While some clinicians deeply suspect my cases of purported possession are actually cases of MPD, I have come to suspect the possibility that their purported cases of MPD might actually be cases of possession."

One approaches this book with both caution and openness, perhaps in the same manner that Peck approaches his subject: while he is obviously fascinated by it, his cold, clinician's eye restrains him from being too taken, hence the rather wary title: Why only "Glimpses" when he, as he claims, came face to face with the devil himself?

Moreover, while being too scientific at times, Peck betrays sometimes a tendency to uncritically embrace what is obviously indefinite. When he reacted with vehemence against Jersey's demonic smile, he takes this as evidence of her possession: "My literal gut reaction to Jersey's smiling rage that day in the hospital was ten times more powerful than any emotion I have ever experienced watching a play or a movie. I would therefore classify it as another possible sign of true possession." This is not only a hasty generalization; it is baseless and without premise. The criteriologists would call it "non sequitur."

But for us, Catholic Filipinos, demonic activity is not new. Since we have been brought up in a sacramental world, we have also come to take the world as both a sacrament and an omen. We take note, for example, of Jersey's penchant for New Age stuff and Beccah's childhood fascination with a gothic book of horror, preoccupations and materials that Catholic churchmen often warn us could be the devil's handiwork.

The American Dominican theologian, Jordan Aumann, who has taught at UST, calls demonic possession "diabolical obsession," a term that should fit more Peck's discovery—that possession is merely one's obsession with the devil and his works, so one is possessed because one cooperates with the devil and believes in his lies.

In his great book, "Spiritual Theology," Aumann says that diabolical obsession owes to any of three causes: God's permission, "the envy and pride of the devil," and "the natural predisposition of the person obsessed, which gives the devil an occasion to attack the individual at his weakest point."

The last cause makes clear Peck's major point in his new book: that the chief exorcist is really the person possessed. If we have it in us to welcome the devil, we also have it in us to show him the door.

Available at National Book Store and PowerBooks.

A member of the illustrious Ravens pays a poetic tribute to a TV icon

Ode to Cecilia

By Nelson Nava Pl. Turgo
Contributor

GIGGLING like a 15-year-old, the lady blurted out, smiling broadly as she pored over the manuscript on her desk, "What an indecent proposal."

The lady, in immaculate white, was Cecilia Lim Lazaro or Cheche Lazaro to you and me, former University of the Philippines professor and one of the most respected television personalities in the Philippines. She blushed after reading the poem.

A Raven (for the non-literati, Raven is an informal group of some of the country's most eminent writers) has written a poem for her, UP Professor Emeritus Raul R. Ingles.

The poem was read in a recent poetry recital at the Alliance Française, which gathered some of the country's and France's literary minds.

"Cheche Lazaro didn't know that a poem dedicated to her would be read in a public gathering such as (that) hosted by the French Embassy. As a former colleague in UP, I promised her that I would be writing a poem for her one of these days.

"And when Virginia Moreno called me up for the event, I sat down and worked on the poem for 45 minutes. When I wrote it, Cheche was the object of my literary enchantment," explained Ingles.

UP Professor Emeritus Raul Ingles

And so, before an audience that included National Artist F. Sionil Jose, the poem made its debut, read by Deanna Ongpin Recto.

Clearly, Lazaro had every reason to feel like someone was making an indecent proposal. The poem reads:

Cecilia, why not now?

It was yesterday when we discovered ourselves anew,
No longer as friends but surreptitious lovers
Clasping hands shyly, casting furtive glances
That suggest a longing for intimacy.

Exactly when and how did it start, Cecilia?
Childhood's innocence was suddenly gone
Because I saw you blooming as a woman
I would like to touch, and perhaps caress;
Your lips that smile, pout, and pucker for a kiss.

No more games where we skip and jump
Or hide and seek behind trees and bushes,
No more marbles to shoot, cards to shuffle,
Kites to fly—I see you now as something to desire;
A girl that makes my heart beat faster when you
Impishly come close and nonchalantly press
Your lithesome body against mine.

If we have to do it, why not now, Cecilia?
Haven't we waited too long for that magic hour
When a glance means so much more than seeing,
A lingering touch that means one is intensely seeking.

I will whisper to you that I will be a faithful lover
And you will slowly and tenderly yield to me
As if the past was forever past—never to return
And exploring ourselves our new destiny.

Isn't that what life is all about—Time now indeed
To put away our toys, and try new exciting games
That utmost familiarity could allow. Together will we
Enter this strange landscape of the flesh, knowingly
Adept at transforming streams and weeds, fruits,
Flowers, birds, a rainbow, into the paradise supreme.

Come, Cecilia, why not now?

DEANNA Ongpin Recto

Poetic 'Lolita?'

Is it a 75-year-old poet's foray into the world of the man in Vladimir Nabokov's "Lolita?"

"No," said Ingles. "She's a very good friend of mine. We worked together in UP for more than 20 years and, as for the theme of the poem, it is naturally about love. It would be incongruous for me to dedicate a poem about politics or religion to a damsel."

He added, he was not in love with Lazaro, just as Leonardo da Vinci was not enamored with Mona Lisa. "A more apt description is admiration for a woman who possesses exceptional qualities that would inspire others to look up to her."

Lazaro could only react in monosyllables to the poem. "*Si Prof. talaga!*" she said. "I've known him for more than 20 years. When I joined UP as a junior faculty, Prof. Raul Ingles *na siya, kagalang-galang na*. We would see each other in faculty meetings and gatherings and from time to time, we bump into each other because we are both members of the UP Mass Communication Foundation. And I just love the guy. He is a man of few words but whenever he spoke in our meetings, everyone would listen."

As for the poem?

She laughed out loud. "I'm honored to have a poem dedicated to me by no less than Prof. Ingles. It sounds like an indecent proposal to me but, knowing him, I'm very flattered. I have high respect for people who write poetry and for people who love to read. They look erudite to me. And because of Prof. Ingles, I can reminisce more vividly of my UP days."

Feeling young

She misses her stint in the university. The exuberance of the youth was exhilarating. In the company of students, she felt young.

She taught part-time, for a while, lecturing on one or two subjects. But she eventually stopped because her Probe Team work was more than she could handle.

"And I felt that I was shortchanging my students. Because of my production schedule, I would be absent (often).

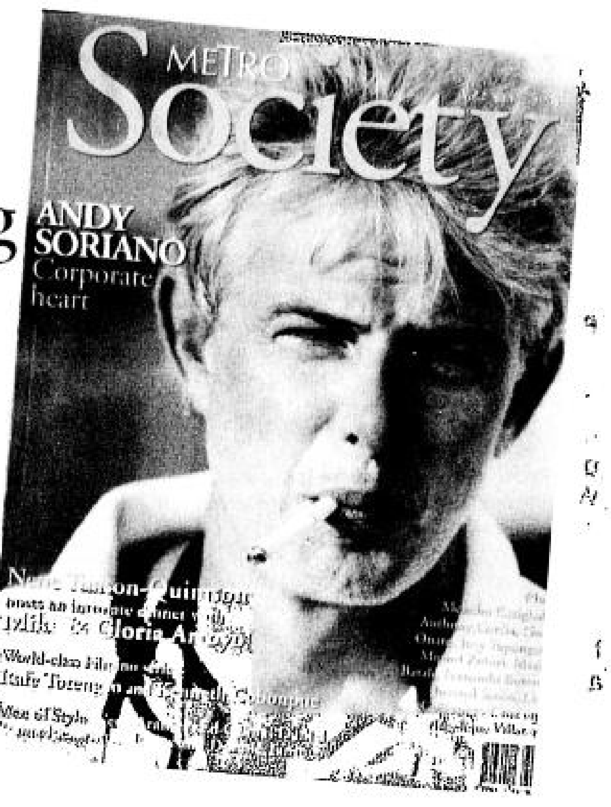
Leisurely reading has become a luxury. "I get to read good books once in a blue moon. That is why I really admire people who have the time to read and, more so, people who can write, people who are in the mold of Prof. Ingles.

"I wish I had the habit of reading. I really try to finish a book once in a while but I fall asleep when I read. Maybe because I get so tired with my daily routine and I badly need sleep. But I love visiting good bookstores. What I need is time."

But, she is finding time to write about her work in television for the past 19 years, especially her experience with the Probe Team.

Perhaps, when it is published, it would give an answer to Ingles' "Cecilia, Why Not Now?"

Andy Soriano III resurrects in Metro Society mag



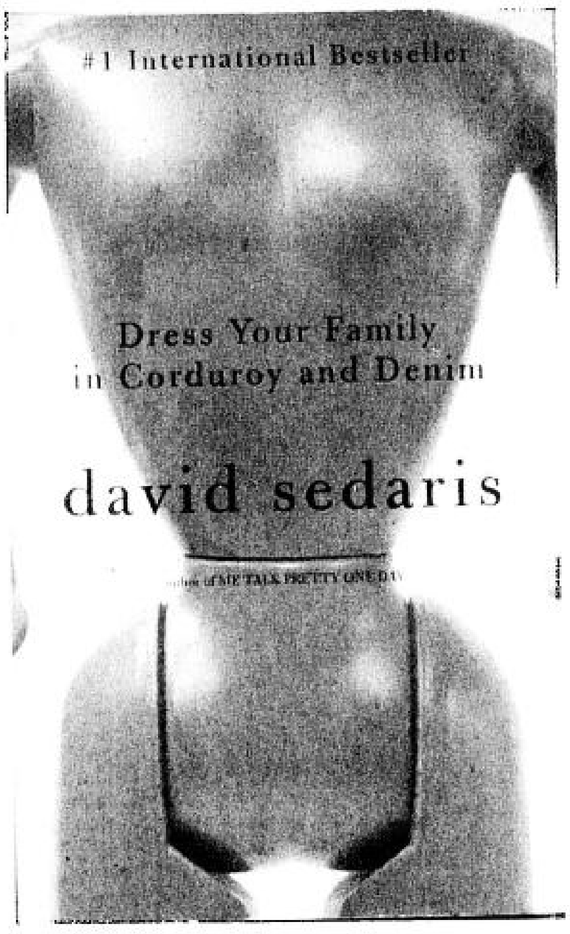
THE MARCH issue of Metro Society has Andy Soriano III on the cover and continues a series on corporate philanthropy and foundations.

It also begins a series on "world-class" Filipinos starting with Cebu's top entrepreneurs and exporters and their companies, plus designer Rafe Totengco and his globally known Rafe line of bags.

Also catch in this issue Manila's Polo season and the Illam Season, exclusive interviews with chef Mario Batali of Food Network and Colombian painter Fernando Botero. Get private with Rep. Miguel Zubiri and Environment Secretary Mike Defensor as Ipe Cruz sleuths their closets. Other interesting personalities featured are Hans Sy, Juvenal Sanso, Paing and Mely Hechanova, Menchu Katigbak, Lisa Cojuangco-Cruz and Angelique Villaraza.

Metro Society, at P200, is available at leading bookstores and magazine stands nationwide. Call 4152272 local 4656.

Book club tackles David Sedaris books


#1 International Bestseller
Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim
david sedaris

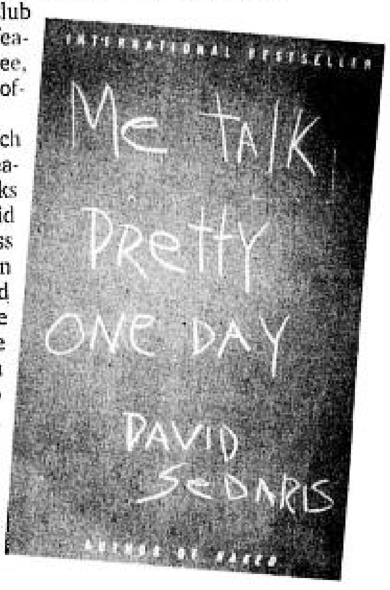
THE POWER Book Club is on its second month.

Join the club and get a 10-percent discount on the featured books. Sit back, relax and enjoy a cup of coffee from The Java Man as you discuss books from different genres.

There's a special treat in store for Powercard holders. The first eight Powercard holders to join the Power Book Club will get the featured book for free, plus a cup of coffee.

This March PowerBooks features two books from David Sedaris. "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim" and "Me Talk Pretty One Day" are fun books, both to read and talk about with fellow bookworms.

"Me Talk Pretty One Day" will be discussed on March 29, 6:30 p.m., at PowerBooks Greenbelt and "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim" on March 30, 6:30 p.m., at PowerBooks Megamall. PowerBooks is at Greenbelt 4 (7576428/29), Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang (8505662 to 63), and Glorietta (7527075).



More of the smoothness
Less of the cost
JOHNNIE WALKER
BLACK LABEL
Dewar's
12
CUTTY SARK
ORIGINAL
SCOTS WHISKY

Enjoy more of the scotch goodness at an even more affordable price.

Johnnie Walker Black Label 1.5L now only **US$29**
Dewar's 12 yrs. old 1L now only **US$10**
Cutty Sark 1.75L now only **US$19**
from March 1 to 31, 2005.

Only at the Fiestamall & Waterfront Hotel Lahug, Cebu City stores
Valid Shopping cards necessary to purchase at the Liquor Section.
DRINK MODERATELY.
Selling of liquor to minors is strictly prohibited and is punishable by law.
Per BFAD Permit No.0227, Series of 2005

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES
THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE Duty FREE.

Hero or traitor?

By Jose Victor Z. Torres
Contributor

FILIPINO collaboration during the Japanese occupation is a subject local historians carefully tread. This reviewer remembers a statement by a daughter of a prominent World War II collaborator in a personal discussion about her father.

"My father was not a collaborator," she said firmly. "He is a hero."

Faced with the ire of the feisty woman, the reviewer could only agree, albeit he was a bit troubled with her assertion.

And it is in this context we should look at "Kulaboretor! The Issue of Political Collaboration During World War II" (UST Publishing, 2003. 291 pp. illus.) by Augusto V. De Viana

De Viana's book is the story of the Commonwealth government officials who collaborated with the Japanese during World War II. These men, led by Jose P. Laurel, Jorge B. Vargas, and others, were later arrested by the American army and placed on trial for treason.

Popular local sentiment, however, considered them heroes. It was believed that Laurel and others took the burden of collaborating with the enemy to soften the effect of the occupation on the Filipinos. This explained the motives for their wartime activities that included creating a Japanese-sponsored government.

Later granted amnesty, many of these officials returned to an active political life, coming out only a bit worse for wear in being branded as traitors.

Filipinos today have their own labels of "collaboration."

Consider the days after Presidents Marcos and Estrada when their officials and friends were hounded because of alleged corruption and ill-gotten wealth obtained through their close connection with the higher-ups. Is this situation any different from what happened to Laurel and Vargas with the only difference being that the "enemy" was a foreign presence in the country?

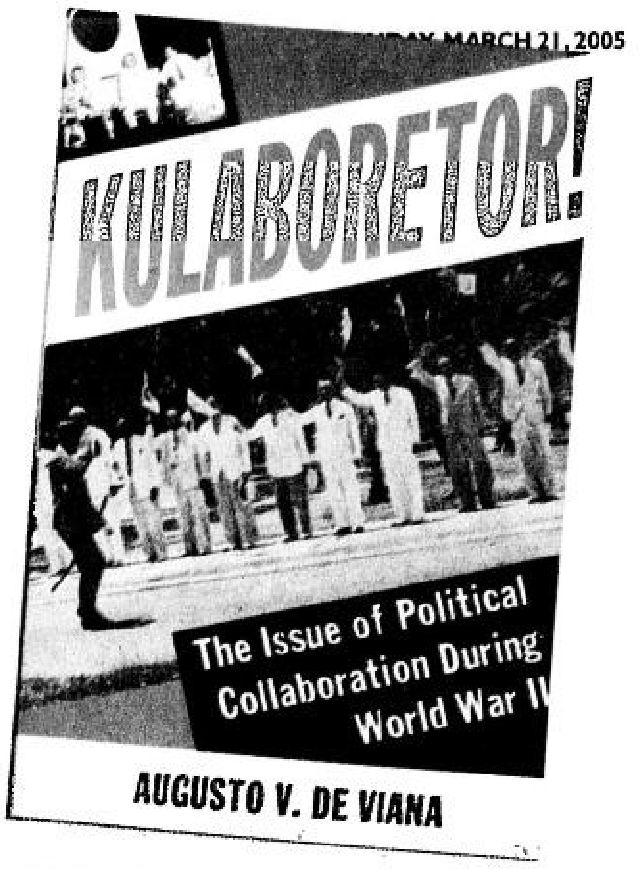
Look at the way Filipinos accepted the family, kin and friends related to the two fallen presidents by electing them to public office. Is the case any different after Laurel (who ran for President in the '50s) and his officials (who ran for the Senate and Congress) were given amnesty?

We expected a fresh view on the World War II collaboration issue with this book. We were disappointed.

De Viana did not seem to have any trouble answering the question of whether Laurel, et al., were heroes. We can deduce what to expect from the book from the dedication.

For De Viana, these men were patriots.

One thing that bothers the reviewer was that De Viana defends his collaboration thesis with post-war definitions on the issue. He does not in any way elaborate on the pre-war meaning of treason and collaboration.



Unique

The Philippine collaboration case after World War II is a unique situation. After the American occupation and the establishment of the Commonwealth, the country did not have any other experience of foreign conquest nor a civil war. Thus, it has no definite laws when treason and collaboration occurs.

Filipino justice had to rely on American jurisprudence to tackle the simmering issue of officials who cooperated with the Japanese. And American law defines dealing with the enemy as collaboration and treason. Thus, Laurel, et al., were collaborators. Period.

This dilemma did not sit well with many lawmakers when Congress resumed in 1945. Many of the congressmen collaborated with the Japanese and it would be like condemning themselves to jail if they followed the American law.

So, when the bill establishing the People's Court was presented, it was watered down considerably to favor these men. The court's special prosecutor, Solicitor-General Lorenzo Tañada, was soon faced with obstacles in prosecuting the war criminals. His task came to an abrupt end with the amnesty granted by President Manuel Roxas (himself, accused of collaboration) in 1948.

Considering this uniqueness, De Viana falls short of analyzing and discussing an aspect in the collaboration issue—the public attitude. Legal terms and policy changes can be debated on. But our erstwhile culture of insensitivity is one thing that can be defined, identified, but hardly argued against.

Filipinos have a short memory and are easily forgiving. Only a handful will continue to remember faults and harbor ill will against a person who may be a collaborator.

This is the reason why Ricarte is still regarded as a hero; Recto is still recognized as a famous nationalist; and Roxas and Laurel became respected Philippine presidents.

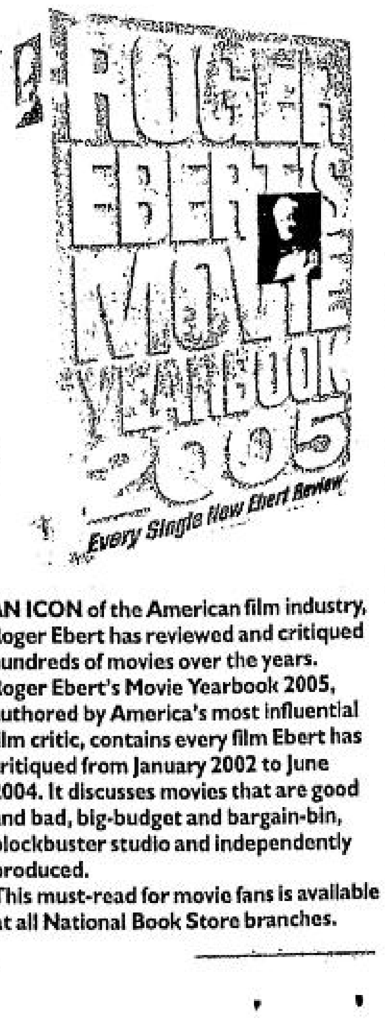
The plus on "Kulaboretor!" is the effort De Viana made in stitching this piece of historical past into a comprehensive and interesting narrative. A background chapter is needed, however, for the reader to know the local and foreign socio-cultural, political and economic situation of the months before World War II.

His research is also thorough. The use of primary World War II and post-war documents as appendices contributes greatly to the work of researchers who are doing related study on this history.

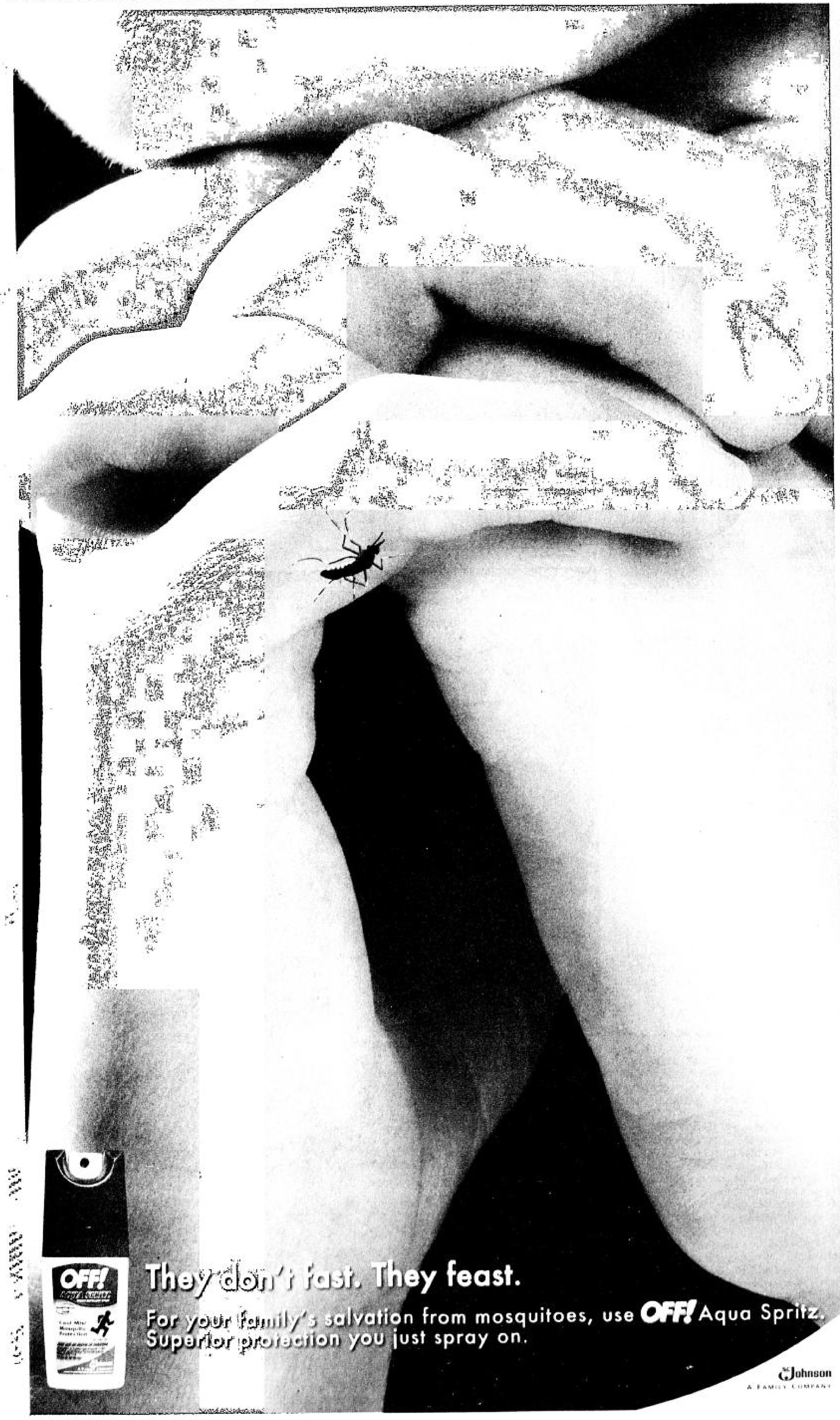
Though the reviewer considers De Viana's framework flawed, "Kulaboretor!" as a historical story is a good source as it provides a clear account of the politics of the dark days of the Japanese occupation and the post-war years.

It also sets the reader into thinking of how one can view the politicians of today through the context of what happened in our past.

"Kulaburetor" is available at Solidaridad (tel. 5255038) and UST Bookstore (7313522 or 4061611 loc. 8252 or 8278).


ROGER EBERT'S MOVIE YEARBOOK 2005
Every Single New Ebert Review

AN ICON of the American film industry, Roger Ebert has reviewed and critiqued hundreds of movies over the years. Roger Ebert's Movie Yearbook 2005, authored by America's most influential film critic, contains every film Ebert has critiqued from January 2002 to June 2004. It discusses movies that are good and bad, big-budget and bargain-bin, blockbuster studio and independently produced.
This must-read for movie fans is available at all National Book Store branches.



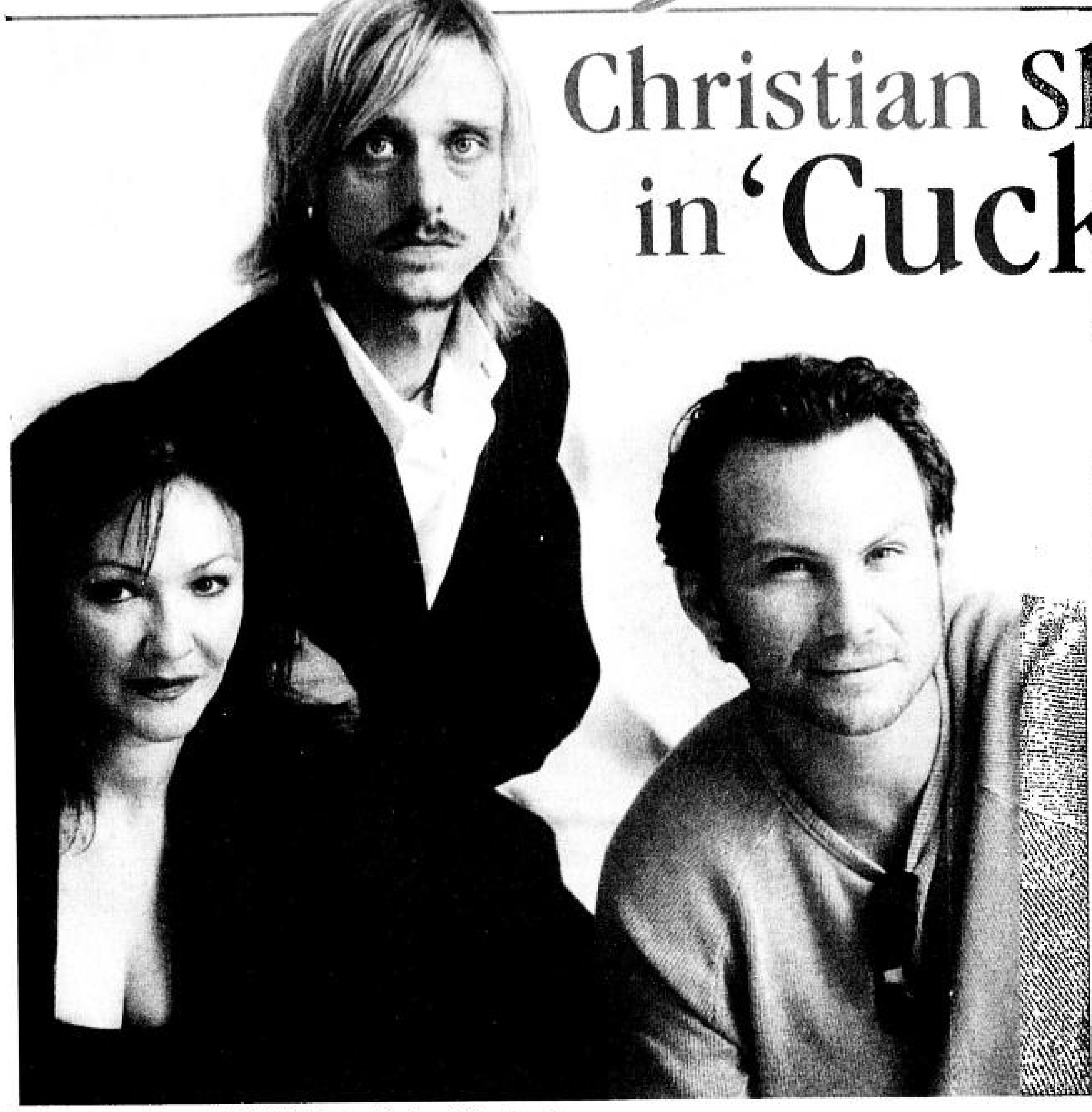
They don't fast. They feast.
For your family's salvation from mosquitoes, use OFF! Aqua Spritz.
Superior protection you just spray on.
OFF!
SC Johnson
A FAMILY COMPANY

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

P99
per dozen
DUNKIN' DONUTS
RAINBOW
Choco Rings

Christian Slater smolders in 'Cuckoo' land



The Hollywood actor delivers a powerful performance in the West End production of 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest'

FRANCES Barber, Mackenzie Crook and Christian Slater are part of a 15-strong cast for the stage adaptation of the Ken Kesey novel, the film version of which gave Jack Nicholson a Best Actor Oscar.

By Leah C. Salterio
Contributor

CHRISTIAN Slater's name on the marquee of the Gielgud Theater in London was enough to excite Hollywood fans and make them beat the path to the box office to watch how he fared onstage in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

Perhaps facing the biggest challenge in his acting career, Slater makes his West End debut reprising the 1975 Oscar-winning role immortalized on the big screen by Jack Nicholson.

The edge of having Slater in the production was that attracted the younger crowd who idolized him. On the night we watched, we spotted a number of 20-something fans and even teenagers in the audience.

We remember Slater as the romantic lead in Tony Bill's "Untamed Heart" (opposite Marisa Tomei); the cunning reporter in Neil Jordan's "Interview with the Vampire" (with Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt); the psychotic anti-hero in Michael Lehmann's "Heathers" (with Winona Ryder); the brave American Marine in John Woo's "Windtalkers" (with Nicolas Cage); and even the good guy in Woo's "Broken Arrow" (with John Travolta).

Burning charisma

It was hard to imagine Slater taking over the role played with such burning charisma by Nicholson. Add to that the pressure of critics who said Nicholson was born to play the part of Randle Patrick McMurphy in the film based on Ken Kesey's cult best-seller.

Slater, described earlier in his career as a "young Nicholson," didn't know he would one day get to play the senior actor's critically acclaimed screen role. Slater was definitely aware comparisons were inevitable, but the 35-year-old actor did not disappoint his audience in Dale Wasserman's play.

Slater proved that innate acting genes were in his blood—thanks to his actor-dad, Thomas Knight Slater—by delivering a subdued but impres sive, show-stealing performance onstage. He did not only show his acting mettle, but also displayed his star quality as well as tons of sex appeal.

Although it was hard to match Nicholson's lunacy as McMurphy, Slater rose to the challenge with his

CHRISTIAN/ F4

Speak From a New Level of Confidence!
SUMMER CLASSES START APRIL 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 16, May 2
Scheds. MW, MWF, TTH, SAT, SUN / Morning, Afternoon, Evening
- Speech Dynamics
- Fluency & Mastery of English
- Practical Conversations
- Business Writing
- Power Talking Skills
- English for Foreigners
- Personality in Action
- Rapid Reading & Comprehension
- Glamour Ride / Finishing Course
- Modern Grammar
- Tagalog

Be a Star or Look Like One!
(for Kids, Teens, Adults)
- Speech & Drama
- Voice & Diction
- Acting
- Singing & Dancing
- Interviewing
- Personality
- Newscasting
- Emceeing

SPECIAL FEATURE: VTR-SEE YOURSELF ON T.V.

Present & Pre-summer classes are also available
IELTS • TOEFL • TSE • CALL CENTER
Private Tutoring and Corporate Training Available

WCT Wilma Cruz-Tapalla
ACADEME OF SPEECH AND PERSONALITY
SINCE 1967

LEGARDA, SAMPALOC
2600 Rizal Hall, Arellano University
736-7656 • 736-7657 • 736-7644

GREENHILLS
55 Annapolis
call Sampaloc

ORTIGAS CENTER
638-8034
or 736-7657

www.wctacademe.com

First Pinnacle
TEAKWOOD
collection
Wood has that warm and sensual feel, with a special soft touch. For you, First Pinnacle has selected the finest teak furniture for your everyday comfort and pleasure. Come & visit our showroom and let your imagination guide you

VISIT OUR NEW SHOWROOM AT MARKET! MARKET!
TC-329, 3/L, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
Showroom 1: 4/L, bes. Gameworx, Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang
Tels.: (02) 771-0857 • 807-8571
Main Office: 60 C.B.T. Condomonium, West Avenue, Quezon City
Tels.: (02) 3739797 • 4165218 - 19

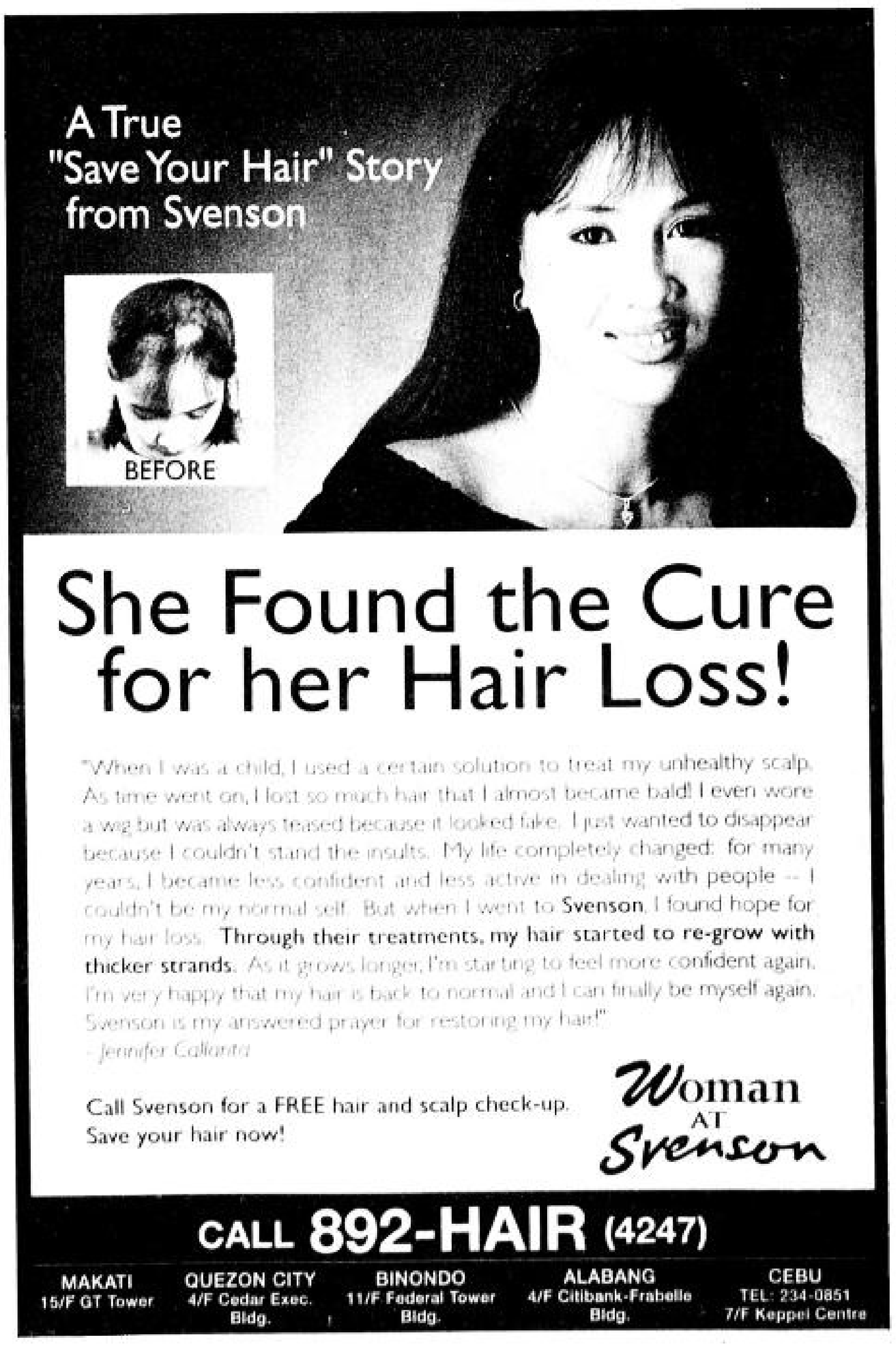
WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS
Easter Egg Hunt Craze 2005
Dreamscape
a world to discover
March 27
Easter Sunday
Registration starts at 10am.

Level 4 Robinsons Galleria
EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue
Quezon City

Hey Kids! Join this year's wackiest Easter Egg Hunting and Easter Egg Painting Contest and get a chance to bring home loads of goodies and exciting prizes!

For inquiries, please call 636-2911 or 631-7329 (office hours) or 631-7594 (weekends & holidays)

ROBINSONS Malls
www.robinsonsmalls.com


A True "Save Your Hair" Story from Svenson
BEFORE
She Found the Cure for her Hair Loss!

"When I was a child, I used a certain solution to treat my unhealthy scalp. As time went on, I lost so much hair that I almost became bald! I even wore a wig but was always teased because it looked fake. I just wanted to disappear because I couldn't stand the insults. My life completely changed: for many years, I became less confident and less active in dealing with people -- I couldn't be my normal self. But when I went to **Svenson**, I found hope for my hair loss. **Through their treatments, my hair started to re-grow with thicker strands.** As it grows longer, I'm starting to feel more confident again. I'm very happy that my hair is back to normal and I can finally be myself again. Svenson is my answered prayer for restoring my hair!"
- Jennifer Callanta

Call Svenson for a FREE hair and scalp check-up.
Save your hair now!

Woman AT Svenson

CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI
15/F GT Tower

QUEZON CITY
4/F Cedar Exec. Bldg.

BINONDO
11/F Federal Tower Bldg.

ALABANG
4/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.

CEBU
TEL: 234-0851
7/F Keppel Centre

ALAM MO ANAK, ITO YUNG LAGI KONG DALA NUNG BATA PA AKO.
BAON NIYA YAN NUNG NAG-LITTLE MS. PHILIPPINES SIYA...
Magnolia
CHOCOLAIT
ONE OF THE FEW THINGS YOU'D LOVE TO SHARE WITH YOUR KIDS. THE CREAMY CHOCOLAITY TASTE OF THE ORIGINAL CHOCOLAIT!

Baritone gets standing ovation in Cagayan

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

TUGUEGARAO City—They thought only the high notes of a tenor or a soprano could bring the house down. But the firm, robust low notes of baritone Noel Azcona made a grand exception by eliciting a wild standing ovation at St. Paul University in this city.

"The voice is exceptional and he doesn't just sing but acts as well," said Sister Norma Que, director of the Culture and Performing Arts Department of this city's St. Paul University (SPU).

"Today I just learned that the baritone is the middle-voiced male singer and I discovered an exciting baritone in Noel Azcona," she added.

Last heard at the Cultural Center of the Philippines as soloist in Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, Azcona didn't have a hard time attracting a predominantly student crowd.

From "Madamina" (Mozart's "Don Giovanni") to "Romanza di Malatesta" (Donizetti's "Don Pasquale") and "Stars" (from "Les Miserables"), Azcona was obviously in top shape and enjoying every minute of his time onstage.

"I am glad the students reacted very well to opera," said SPU president Sister Angela Junio, who treated the artists to a sumptuous post-concert reception after watching the pandemonium over the baritone.

"We were both overwhelmed and it felt great," said Azcona and pianist Najib Ismail, who played a recital of oratorio, art songs, *kundiman*, Broadway and opera.

"It was very rewarding for both of us, and we were glad our artistic collaboration worked."

SISTER Remy Angela Junio, president of St. Paul University in Tuguegarao City, and pianist Najib Ismail flank baritone Noel Azcona.

No one knew what to expect from a baritone since the school was busy with final exams and preparations for graduation. Not a few students wanted to leave after a few numbers, but got hooked with the baritone in the first number, Handel's But "Who May Abide/The Day of His Coming" from Handel's "Messiah."

One has heard this Handel aria many times especially during the upsurge of the Yuletide season, but Azcona gave it a lasting vocal stamp worthy of an aria for all seasons.

Complemented by the excellent acoustics of Mother Madeleine Hall, where Cecile Licad was given standing ovations in 2002 and 2003, Azcona gave a resounding statement that baritones were the equal of sopranos and tenors.

Closing with Rodger and Hammerstein's "Some Enchanted Evening" (from "South Pacific"), Azcona made a total vocal conquest with a cheering crowd that stood on its feet twice—after the Hammerstein favorite and an encore, Richard Marx's "To Where You Are," popularized by Josh Groban.

"We also found this concert a great opportunity to introduce classical music to students, and to impress upon them the hard work and discipline that go behind every piece of music you perform. We are glad both the sisters and students enjoyed as well," said Azcona.

The two artists, both from the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, opened "The Best of the Philippines Concert Tour," which started in Tuguegarao City on March 12 and will wind up in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija (March 27) and in Virac, Catanduanes (April 3).

Both Azcona and Ismail will be heard in a special command performance for the editors and staff of the INQUIRER at the PDI Building tomorrow (March 22).

John Robert Powers offers special summer discount

JOHN Robert Powers has for the past 20 years been holding lessons on personality development, acting, modeling, etiquette, grooming and executive programs.

This summer the school is offering a P5,000 discount for early enrollees before March 31. Call 8929511 for details.

JRP Manila is headed by Marivic Padilla-Catala who is an international director of John Robert Powers International. The international headquarters of John Robert Powers for the regions of Asia, Australia/New Zealand/Middle East is located in Manila. It is headed by Richard S. Upton, president of JRP International. The Manila school is the company's prototype school for all JRP franchises in the international area. It is here that most programs and materials are developed for all markets.

The mission of John Robert Powers is to help individuals achieve their maximum potential through confidence building, communication proficiency and image enhancement. The success rate is very high.

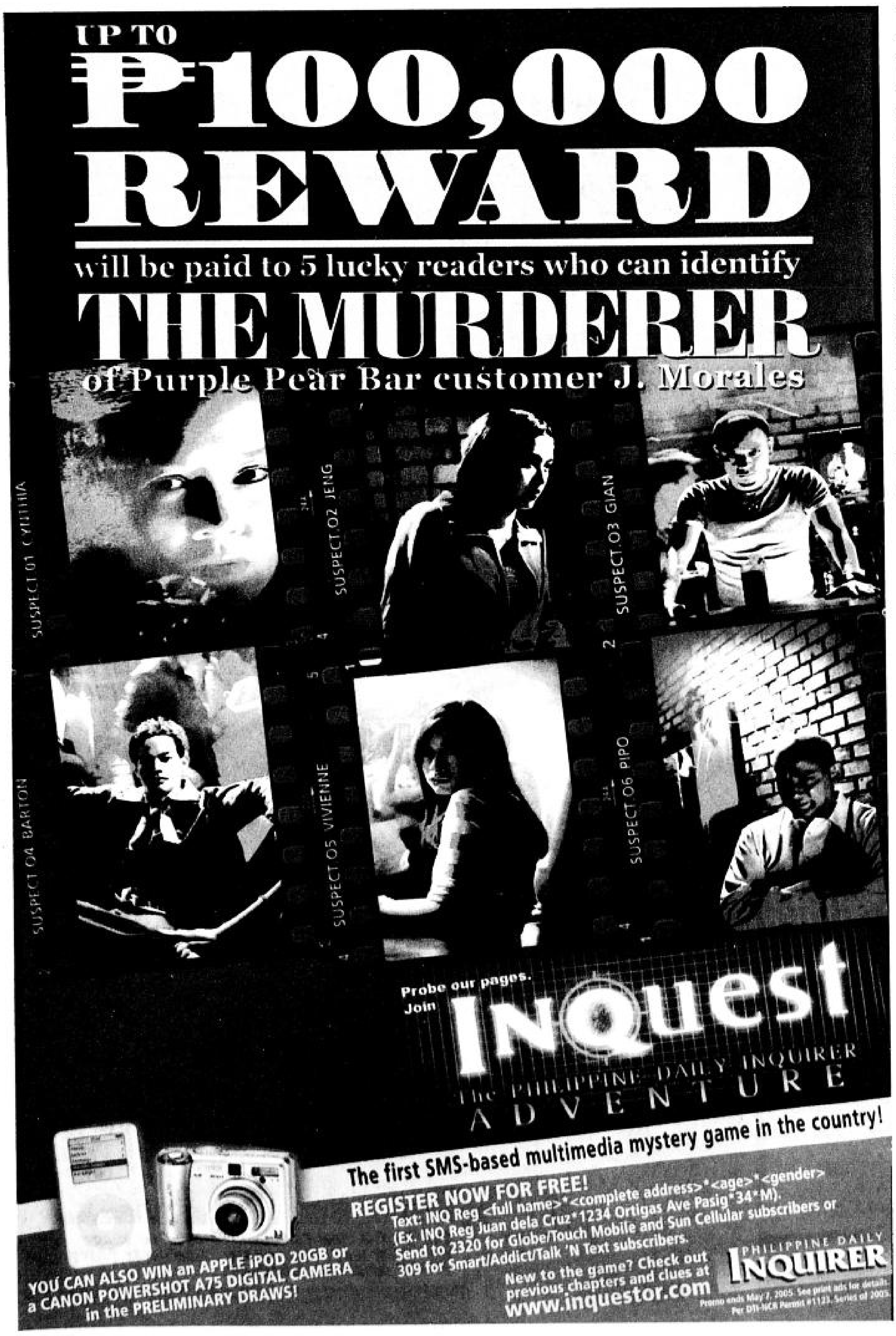
JRP Manila alumni Karen Agustin, Bb. Pilipinas Universe 2002; Maricar Tolosa, Bb. Pilipinas International 2001; Yul Servo, multi-awarded actor; Paolo Ballesteros, TV personality; Sean Lim, recording star; and Francois Filamor, model for Ford Modeling Agency comprise just the short list of successful JRP Manila students.

Currently enrolled students include Kyla, Sarah Geronimo, Angelica Jones, and others. Over 10,000 students have attended Powers in Manila.

There are 11 other Powers locations in the Asia-Pacific region in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Indonesia. A Malaysia location will open in 2005. There are 60 JRP schools in North America.

YUL Servo

KARLA Agustin


UP TO P100,000 REWARD will be paid to 5 lucky readers who can identify THE MURDERER of Purple Pear Bar customer J. Morales

Probe our pages. Join INQuest The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER ADVENTURE

The first SMS-based multimedia mystery game in the country!

REGISTER NOW FOR FREE!
Text: INQ Reg <full name>*<complete address>*<age>*<gender>
(Ex. INQ Reg Juan dela Cruz*1234 Ortigas Ave Pasig*34*M).
Send to 2320 for Globe/Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular subscribers or 309 for Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text subscribers.

New to the game? Check out previous chapters and clues at www.inquestor.com

YOU CAN ALSO WIN an APPLE iPOD 20GB or a CANON POWERSHOT A75 DIGITAL CAMERA in the PRELIMINARY DRAWS!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Promo ends May 7, 2005. See print ads for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit #1123, Series of 2005.

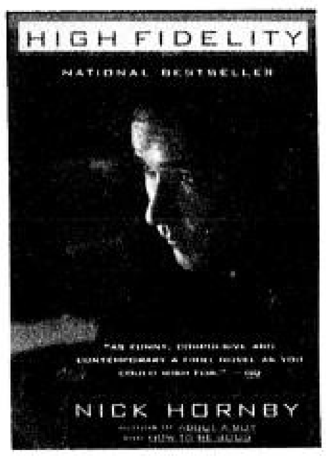
Buy a Nick Hornby book, win free tickets to 'High Fidelity'

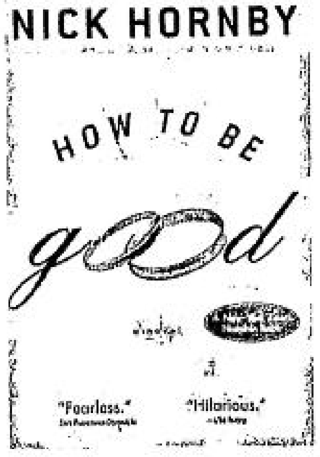
Powerbooks Specialty Store this month features books by British writer Nick Hornby -- "Fever Pitch," "How To Be Good," "About A Boy" and "The Polysyllabic Spree" -- books that present a fresh and engaging perspective on the domestic, often mundane dealings of daily life. Hornby masterfully directs his cast of depressed albeit endearing characters as they navigate one hilarious situation after another.

Powerbooks gives the first 50 lucky customers a chance to see the screen adaptation of Hornby's "High Fidelity." Buy a copy of any Nick Hornby book within March and get two tickets to a special screening of "High Fidelity," starring John Cusack, on April 6 at the Greenbelt 3 My Cinema.

The first 25 attendees will get a free popcorn bucket, a free softdrink, and a free gate pass to Timezone. Buyers also have a chance to get a free parking stub and a chance to win a Nick Hornby book set.

Powerbooks is at Greenbelt 4 (7576428/29), Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang (8505662 to 63), and Glorietta (7527075).





Last call for Gantimpala theater workshop

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation (GTF), in cooperation with the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC), announces its last call for its Summer Musical Theater and Stage Management Workshops which is scheduled from April 4 to May 14 at the Rehearsal Hall of the Concert at the Park Auditorium, Luneta, Manila.

Classes are Children's Musical Theater with Roence Santos as the facilitator. For the Musical Theater for Teens and Young Adults, the facilitators are Angie Panogan, for drama and movement and Nazer Salcedo for voice. For the stage management class, Ed Murillo facilitates.

Some of the well-known graduates of the annual GTF workshops are China Cojuangco and Valerie Roxas. Both are now members of the GTF Actors Company after their workshop stint. The two have appeared in GTF productions like the Four Classics - Kanser, Ibong Adarna, Florante at Laura and El Filibusterismo, the musicales Grethology and Pepe en Pilar, and the Theatre Now production of La Casa de Bernarda Alba. The ladies are also very busy with their commercial endorsements such as Libresse for Cojuangco and Sky Flakes, Palmolive Naturals Shampoo for Roxas.

Enrollees must bring a 2x2 colored picture. Tuition fee is P5,000 inclusive of the recital fee. There are very few slots remaining per class and interested workshop participants may inquire at 5365860 or 5280602 or visit the GTF office at the 2nd floor, Open Air Auditorium in Luneta.

The GTF office is at the back of the Manila Planetarium, in between the Japanese and Chinese Garden, and is adjacent to the Chess Plaza and the Andres Soriano Mass Communications Library.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Miravite's second CD launched

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

A sound philosophical base stands out as an important consideration in the composer's music

FAYE Miravite's second compact disc, "A Proposito," had a successful launch recently at Cello on Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, Makati City.

The launch featured performances by the artists in the CD—pianist and UST Conservatory of Music dean Raul Sunico and soprano Rachelle Gerodias, both of them handpicked by the composer to interpret her works: seven piano selections and a song in Italian.

The event was well-attended. Members of the diplomatic corps, aesthetes, businessmen and musicians graced the occasion.

The composer took center stage, annotating her works before each performance. Cello's proprietor, Harry Tambuatco, was emcee.

Miravite revealed the many factors that inspired each composition. A sound philosophical base stands out as an important consideration.

The very title of the album, A" Proposito (By the Way)," shows an existentialist tinge. In the words of the composer herself, it implies the finiteness of things like life itself.

A Renaissance disposition

It is the cerebral grounding that keeps Miravite's music from turning into a maze of emotional outburst, showing a cosmopolitan outlook that is very much akin to the Renaissance disposition.

In short, raw emotion is tempered by an intellectual poise, resulting in a well-blended fusion that gives the works a holistic touch.

This aesthetics stance is perhaps explained by the fact that the composer is schooled in both the sciences and the arts, having taken Mathematics in both the undergraduate and graduate levels at the University of Michigan, and Philosophy in the post graduate level at Universita degli Studi di Firenze in Florence, Italy.

"La Divina Folia" illustrates well this point. Music falls outside the realm of reason and defies understanding because it is divine and is a gift from heaven.

Miravite's music is easy to follow, well molded into a discernible form such as the ternary, and flowing naturally. The refrain, if haunting, veers toward the major or minor mode.

Himself a proponent of the keen blending of music with science, Sunico, Ph.D., played with a magical touch, maintaining a cool stance throughout. Gerodias' singing, on the other hand, had much gusto, and all done in bel canto, disclosing the spinto or dramatic lyricism of "Verso Sera," a truly engaging aria.

The appreciative guests had a glimpse of another genre where the composer equally excelled in, the finale, "One of these days," first played on the piano by Sunico.

Sandra Lim Viray, who intoned it in a gentle, earthy, natural voice, rendered the reprise. The music was catchy, undulating, with a gentle swing.

Sponsors of the launch were Filinvest Land, Lyric Piano, DZFE The Master's Touch, Le Cellier French Wines, Carlos I and Creative Trends Inc.

Released through Soliloquy Records, the CD is distributed nationwide by Ivory Records and online at www.divisoria.com.

RAUL Sunico playing Faye Miravite's music on the piano

Nobel winner's dramatic works now available

"FOR an oeuvre of universal validity, bitter insights and linguistic ingenuity which has opened new paths for the Chinese novel and drama," Gao Xingjian became the recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2000 and one of the world's foremost literary greats.

Born Jan. 4, 1940, in Ganzhou in the Jiangxi province, Gao is a writer of prose, a translator, dramatist, director, critic and artist.

Several of his experimental and groundbreaking plays were produced at the Theater of Popular Art in Beijing. Gao introduced avant-garde ideas from both European theatre and the Theatre of the Absurd to his Chinese audiences. His most famous absurd drama "Arret de bus" or "Bus Stop" was described as an insidious piece of writing and condemned during the campaign against "intellectual pollution." He now resides in France.

Gao's books are available at PowerBooks at Greenbelt 4 (7576428/29), Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang (8505662 to 63), and Glorietta (7527075).

Film, broadcast workshops in Tagaytay

NOW on its fourth year, the Tagaytay Film, Broadcast and Creative workshops in partnership with the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) offers a string of 16 courses this summer from April 25-29 and May 9-13.

Led by film directors Eddie Romero and Joel Lamangan, 20 experts in various fields from institutional communications to film, television and radio production have agreed to lend their expertise in a one-week hands-on intensive course to those who aspire for creative excellence in their work.

Interested participants may inquire and enroll for the different courses through the Creative Media Professionals Guild of Asia and the Pacific by calling 9261883 and 9251916.

The courses and their respective gurus for the week of April 25-29 are the following:

Video Production for Institutional Presentations, Salvi Casino

Scriptwriting for AVPS, Nick Tayag

How to Become an Effective TV Host, Chichi Robles

Basic Photography, Joey Tañedo and Noli Geralde

Newspaper/Company Paper Design and Layouting, Lynett Villariba

Communication Planning and Crisis PR, Ray Junia

Events as a Promotion and Communication Tool, Ding Gagelonia and Danny dela Cuesta

For the week of May 9-13, the following courses are offered:

Directing for Film, Eddie Romero and Joel Lamangan

Scriptwriting for Film, Roy Iglesias

Production Design for Film, Cesar Hernando

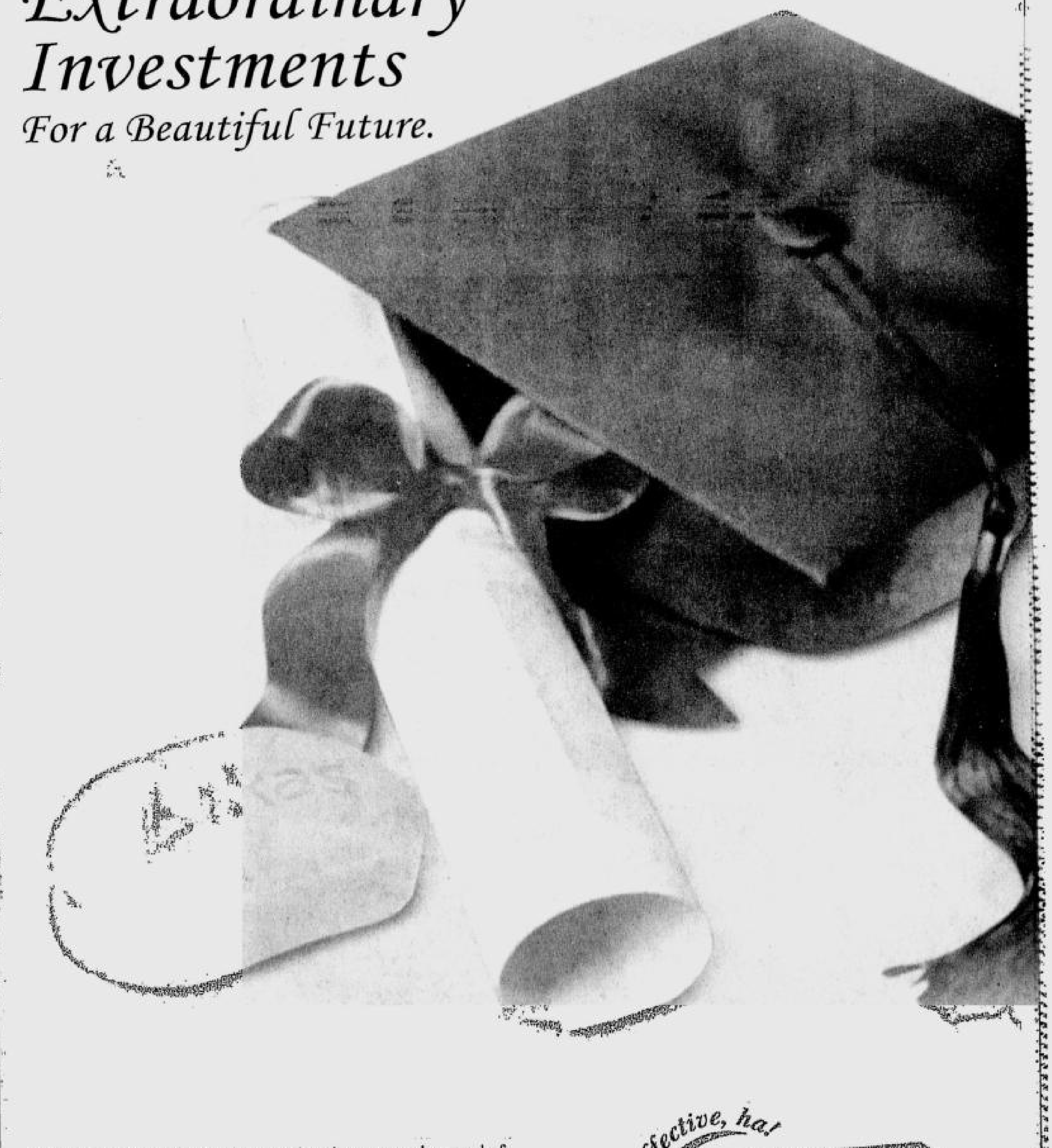
Cinematography, Boy Yñiguez

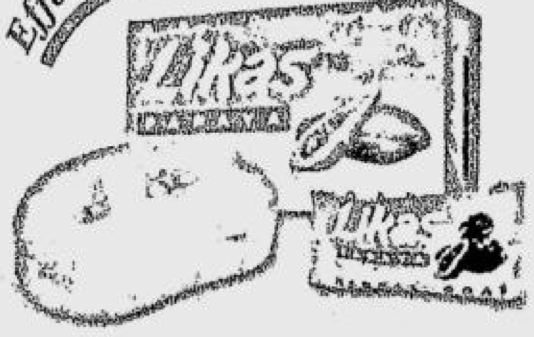
Alternative Videomaking, Sonny Joaquin

Digital Editing, Giggi Garcia and Ed Usman

Making Informative Radio Show Entertaining, Tato Malay

How to Draw Manga, the Culture Crash group





Extraordinary Investments
For a Beautiful Future.

Yes, you've already invested on an education you can be proud of.
An education that came from your perseverance, honesty and determination.
Congratulations!

But, isn't it time, you invested on your beauty?

With Likas Papaya Herbal Soap, you can be irresistibly beautiful.
Because of its 100% natural botanical ingredients, it can make your skin whiter, smoother and undeniably fairer!

After having that beautiful skin... I doubt you can't have a beautiful future.
Likas Papaya salutes Batch 2005!

'Once on This Island' this May at RCBC Theater

THE CAST of Actor's Actors Inc.'s "Once on This Island"

ACTOR'S Actors Inc. (AAI), the company that staged the dazzling musical "The Last Five Years," together with Silang Productions, is staging "Once on This Island" this May with a dream cast of performers.

Heading the cast are Bituin Escalante who plays the goddess of the earth, Asaka; Michael Williams as the god of rain, Agwe; Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo as the goddess of love, Erzulie; and Jett Pangan as the god of death, Papa Ge.

Also lending their star wattage to the cast are May Bayot, who starred in last year's "Himala," and Michael de Mesa. Making her theater debut is Raki Vega who won the national search for ABS-CBN's "Born Diva," and is currently cutting her debut album with Star Records.

"Once on This Island" tells the story of Ti Moune, a peasant girl from a fishing village who dares to ask the gods for love with a rich stranger. Her wish is granted but each of the gods exacts a price for fulfilling her dream. It is a tale of romance and triumph, tears and laughter, conflict and redemption.

The creative team is composed of some of the most respected names in the industry, starting with director Bart Guingona, who is known for his intelligent directorial vision; choreographer Denisa Reyes, former artistic director of Ballet Philippines; set designer Gino Gonzales, who has designed sets and costumes as diverse as the Bench Understatement Fashion Show to Ryan Cayabyab's "Spoliarium;" lights designer John Batalla, who has designed Regine Velasquez's concerts, TV shows as well as Anton Juan's "Oedipus Rex."

"Once on This Island" will run May 13-May 28 at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, in Makati. Sponsorship and show buying opportunities are still available through AAI. Call 5365844, 818111 loc. 218, 0917-8155794 or 0922-3221360, or e-mail stages_pr@i-manila.com.ph.

Christian Slater smolders in 'Cuckoo' land

From page F1

distinct portrayal of the character, moving away from the shadow of Nicholson. He was also generous enough to allow his co-actors to shine throughout the production.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" was certainly thousands of acting miles from Slater's earlier stint on Broadway, where he appeared in plays like "The Music Man" and "Side Man."

Claustrophobic confines

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" is about a petty criminal, gambler and troublemaker, McMurphy, who volunteers as a patient in a psychiatric facility to escape the more dreaded slammer. Inside the claustrophobic confines of the American mental asylum, the wild and rebellious McMurphy has to battle with the other patients, as well as with the cruel nurse Ratched, played by Frances Barber.

With McMurphy's infectious energy, he is able to gradually change the outlook of everyone inside the mental ward and win them over.

Barber delineated her role with zealous conviction. Her powerful stage presence in her pristine white uniform was enough to scare the audience. And the minute she walked into the mental ward, one instantly knew she was in control.

CHRISTIAN Slater

Mackenzie Crook, star of "Pirates of the Caribbean" and BBC's "The Office," provided the poignant moments and tragic turn in the play as the vulnerable, sexually repressed and stammering mother's boy, Billy Bibbitt.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" doesn't need any hydraulic-powered and other spellbinding effects to delight the audience. The set itself was simple—inside a psychiatric ward. The acting prowess of the cast members was also enough to make it memorable.

And even if it was Slater who undoubtedly drew crowd to the box office, the play was clearly an ensemble piece, so that even the conventional roles of the minor actors were crucial to the success of the production.

The actors' collective energy onstage was simply palpable, making the play a powerful production. No wonder the play was given a West End audience rating of five stars.

Booking demands

Slater originally signed up for "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" in London only until early December. However, booking demands convinced the actor to extend his contract for another month, so he was seen in the West End stage until early January.

With Slater's drawing power, the play was reported to have broken box-office records at the Gielgud Theater, despite competition from other notable and popular West End productions. It likewise generated favorable reviews for Slater.

The last time the show was mounted in London was at the Barbican Theater, with another great actor, Gary Sinise, as McMurphy. Before the play was turned into a movie, the original Broadway production in the '60s had Kirk Douglas in the lead.

The new West End production of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" didn't take off without any hitches. Original director Guy Masterton pulled out three weeks into the rehearsals, saying he was "very exhausted physically and emotionally."

Thankfully the producers readily found a replacement and signed up playwright and director Terry Johnson, who shared directorial credits with Tamara Harvey.

Then Slater caught chicken pox, so the preview performances had to be called off. But the entire cast was said to have kept their optimism and remained focused, which apparently sustained them throughout the run.

Unless you're a die-hard Jack Nicholson fan, you will prefer the stage version of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," which is both riveting and entertaining, with a few hilarious moments.

Manila-based theater companies might be interested to mount the play since we have a number of brilliant actors who cross over from TV/movies to stage (Michael de Mesa immediately comes to mind).

But, of course, there's nothing like seeing a play on West End—or Broadway for that matter.

Play and music learning school for children opens in Alabang

EARLY childhood development pioneer Gymboree Play and Music has arrived in Alabang. The first branch in the south will open next month at the Westgate Center, Filinvest Corporate City.

Parents looking to enhance their children's early development, particularly during the first three years which are the most critical years for brain development, are invited to try Gymboree Play and Music.

The play and music programs are designed for parents and children from newborn to four years. Each Gymboree class is a combination of guided play and developmentally appropriate group activities that last 45 minutes once, twice or thrice a week.

Parental participation is important. Parents entering their child's world should provide the support and encouragement a child needs for building proper self-esteem.

Parents may also socialize and share information with other parents while learning new and creative ways of playing and interacting with their children.

Gymboree also hosts birthday parties for young children. Call 0917-858-PLAY (7529). E-mail gymboree.alabang@gmail.com.

NEW
Healthy Living Oil
OKAY LANG MAG-PRITO!
Magnolia
Nutri-Oil
Pure Vegetable Oil
Healthy Living Oil
1000mL (912gms)
Another quality product of
At last, isang cooking oil na body health-friendly! Paulit-ulit mang kumain ng prito, ok lang! Dahil ang Magnolia Nutri-Oil ay Healthy Living Oil. Gawa sa coconut oil na naturally rich in MCT's o Medium Chain Triglycerides. Madaling ma-digest ng katawan for all-around energy. Mag-enjoy ka sa prito...hanggang gusto mo! O, kain muli! Magnolia Nutri-Oil! New from San Miguel!